

GURU ARJAN

When Guru Ramdas chose his youngest son, Arjanmal, to succeed him as the fifth guru of the Sikhs, it created a lot of ill-will in his eldest son, Prithichand. But the choice was not wrong. Guru Arjan was the very embodiment of love, humility and courage. His greatest contribution to Sikhism was the compilation of the Guru Granth Sahib and the construction of the Har Mandir Sahib in Amritsar. He was the first Sikh martyr and by his death inspired his followers to uphold the truth under any pressure.

OTHER ACK VISIONARIES:

GURU NANAK



GURU TEGH BAHADUR



KABIR



MAHAVIRA



ALSO LOOK FOR:

BAHUBALI



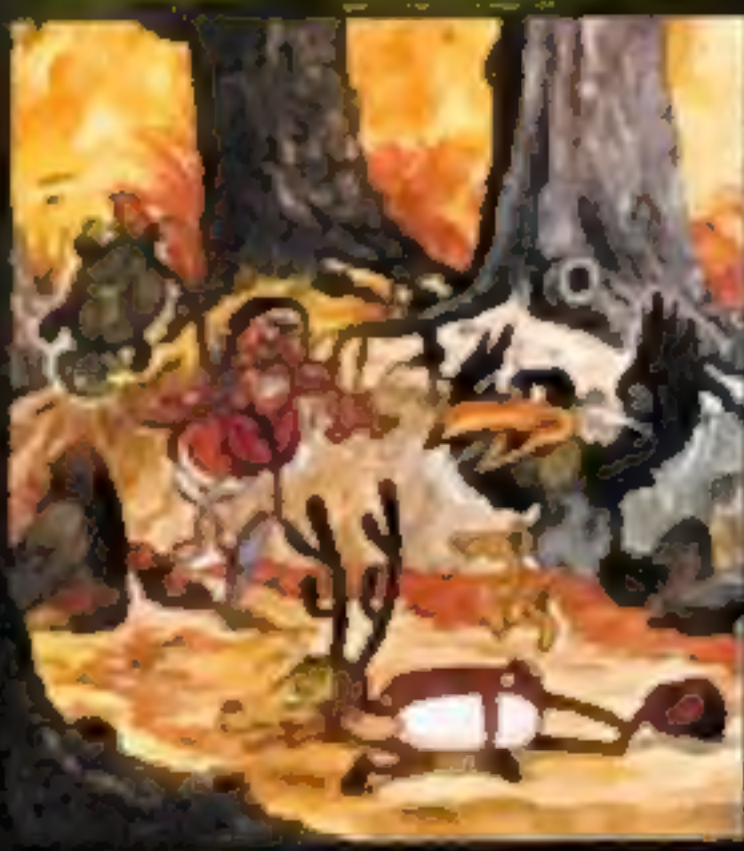
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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

VISIONARIES



GURU ARJAN

THE MAN WHO KNEW NO FEAR

Vol 740 | ₹50

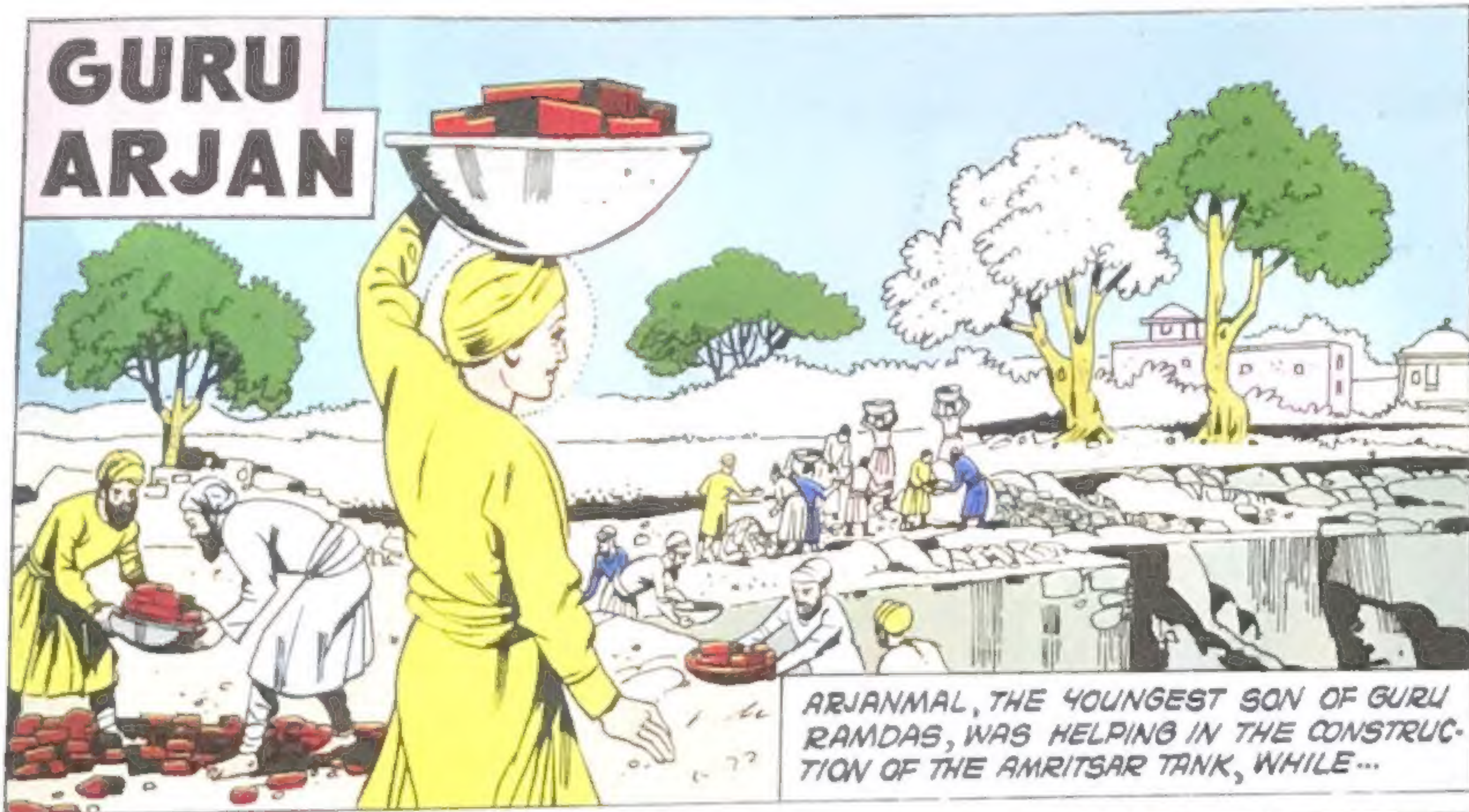


ISBN 81-8482-136-0



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GURU ARJAN

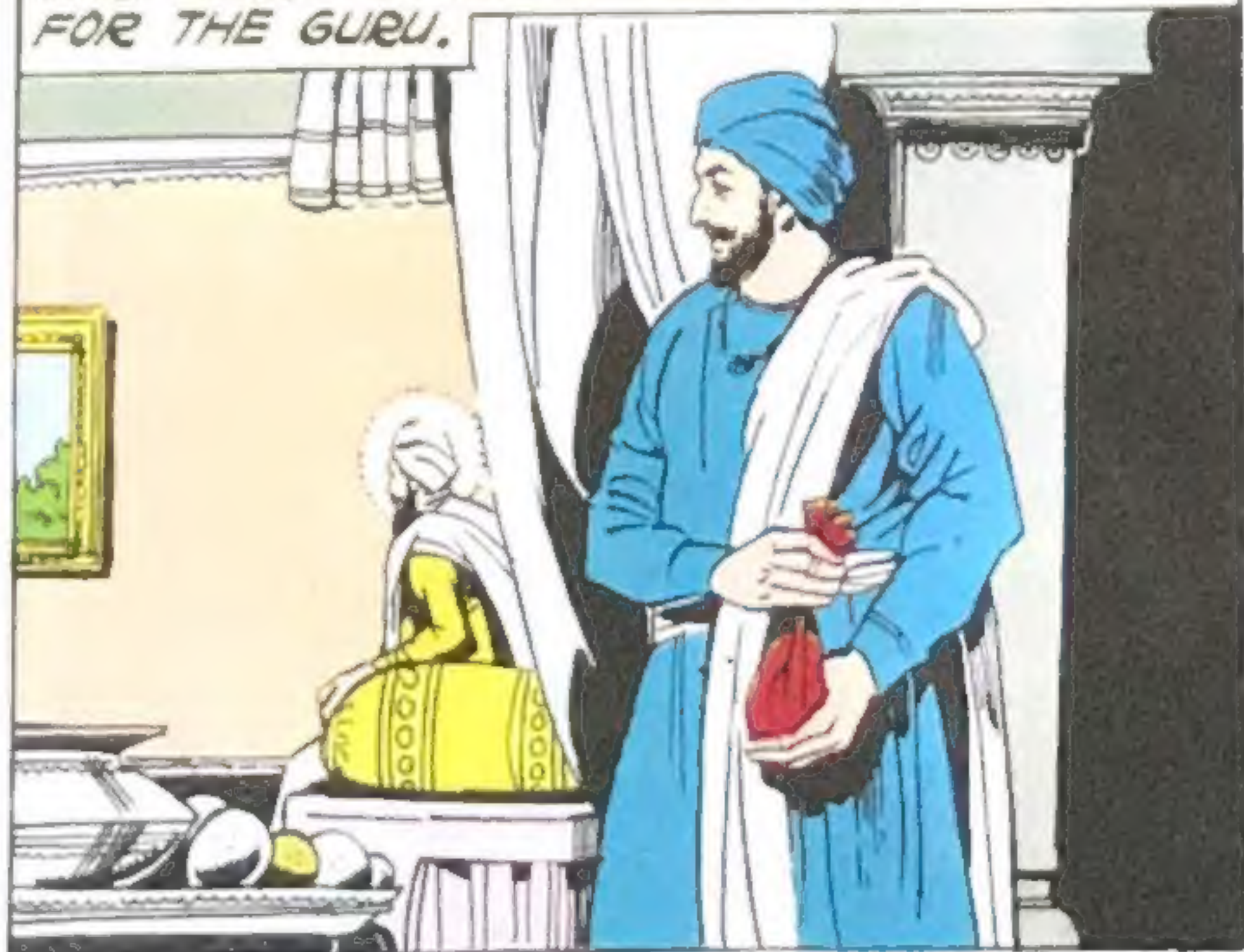


ARJANMAL, THE YOUNGEST SON OF GURU RAMDAS, WAS HELPING IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AMRITSAR TANK, WHILE...

...HIS ELDER BROTHER MAHADEV WAS IN MEDITATION...



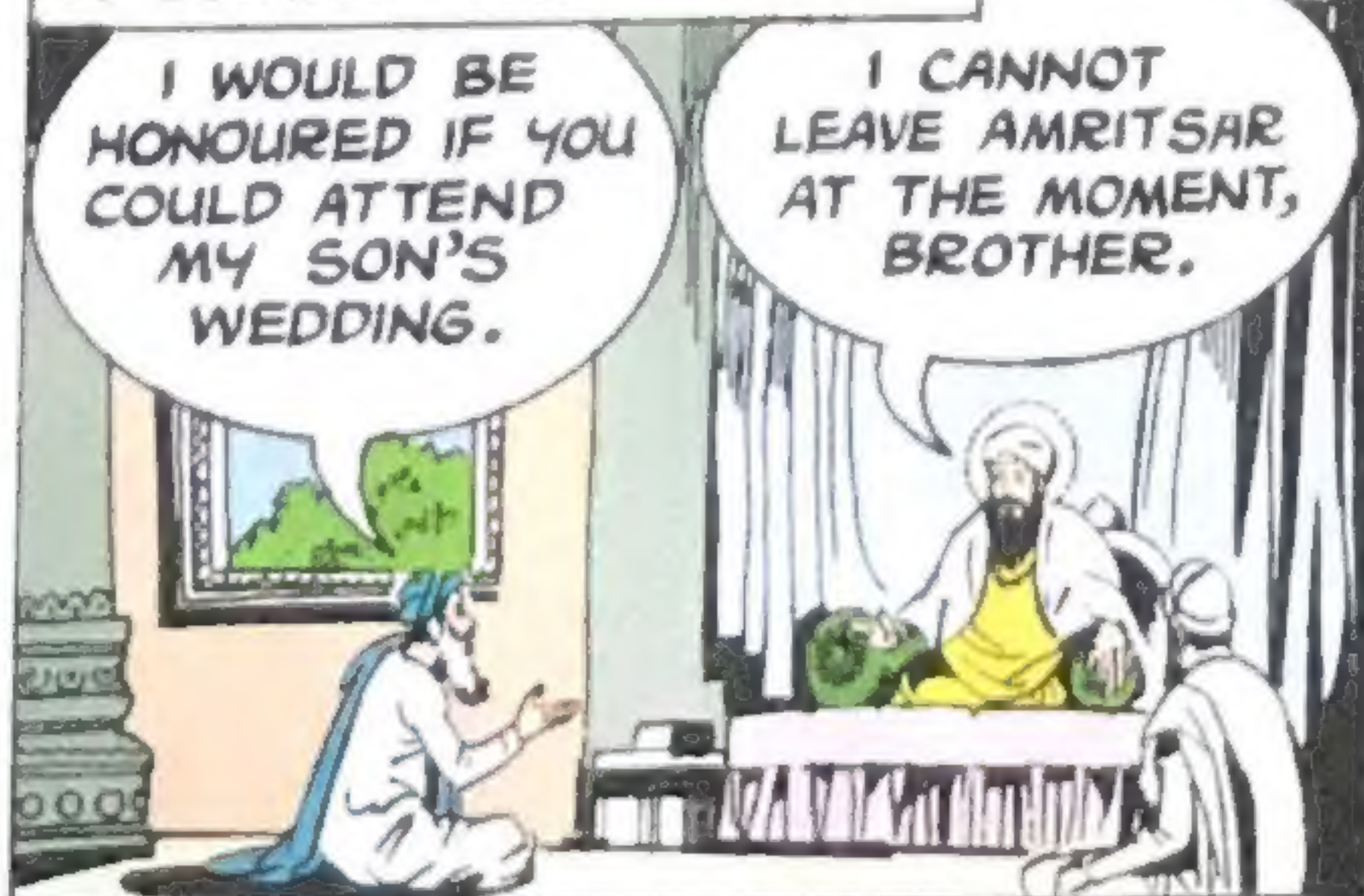
...AND HIS ELDEST BROTHER, PRITHICHAND, WAS BUSY POCKETING THE OFFERINGS MEANT FOR THE GURU.



THE GURU HIMSELF WAS TALKING TO A COUSIN FROM LAHORE.

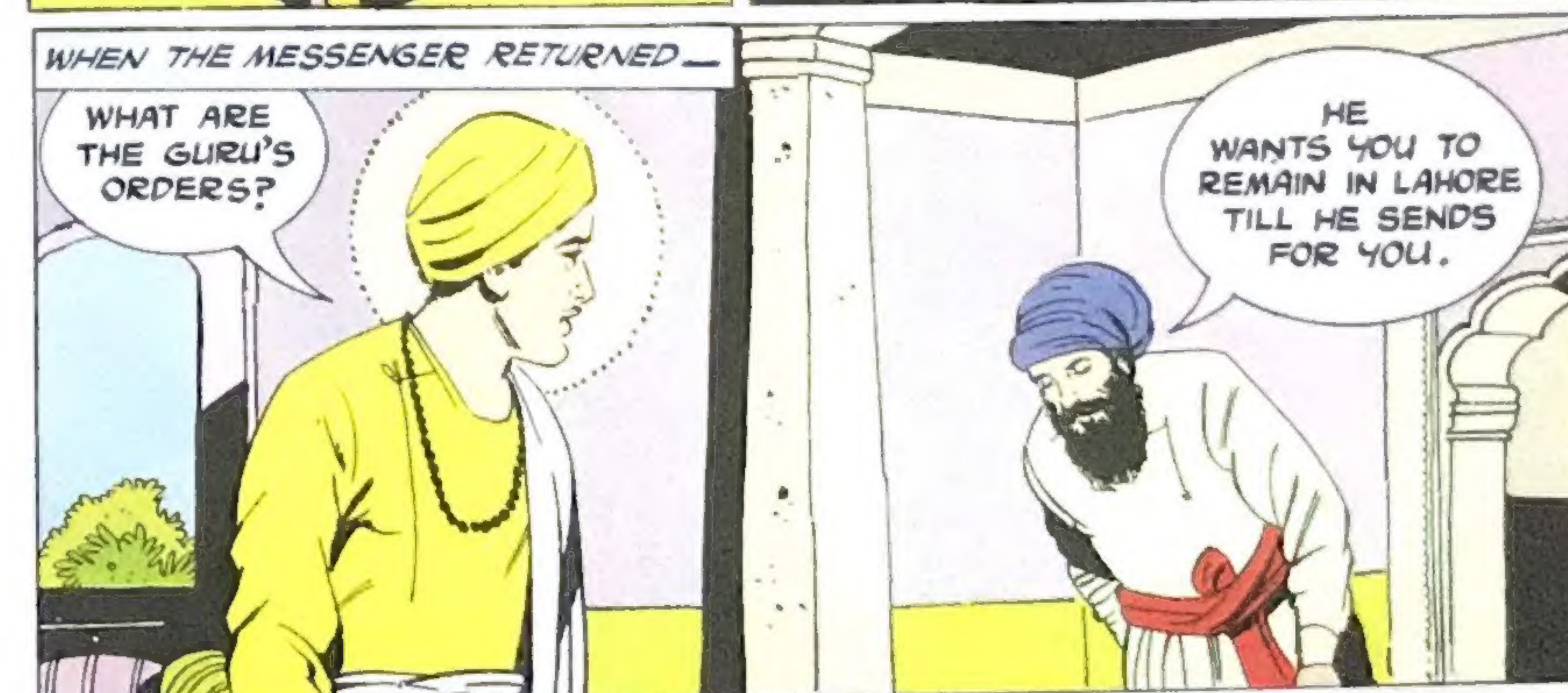
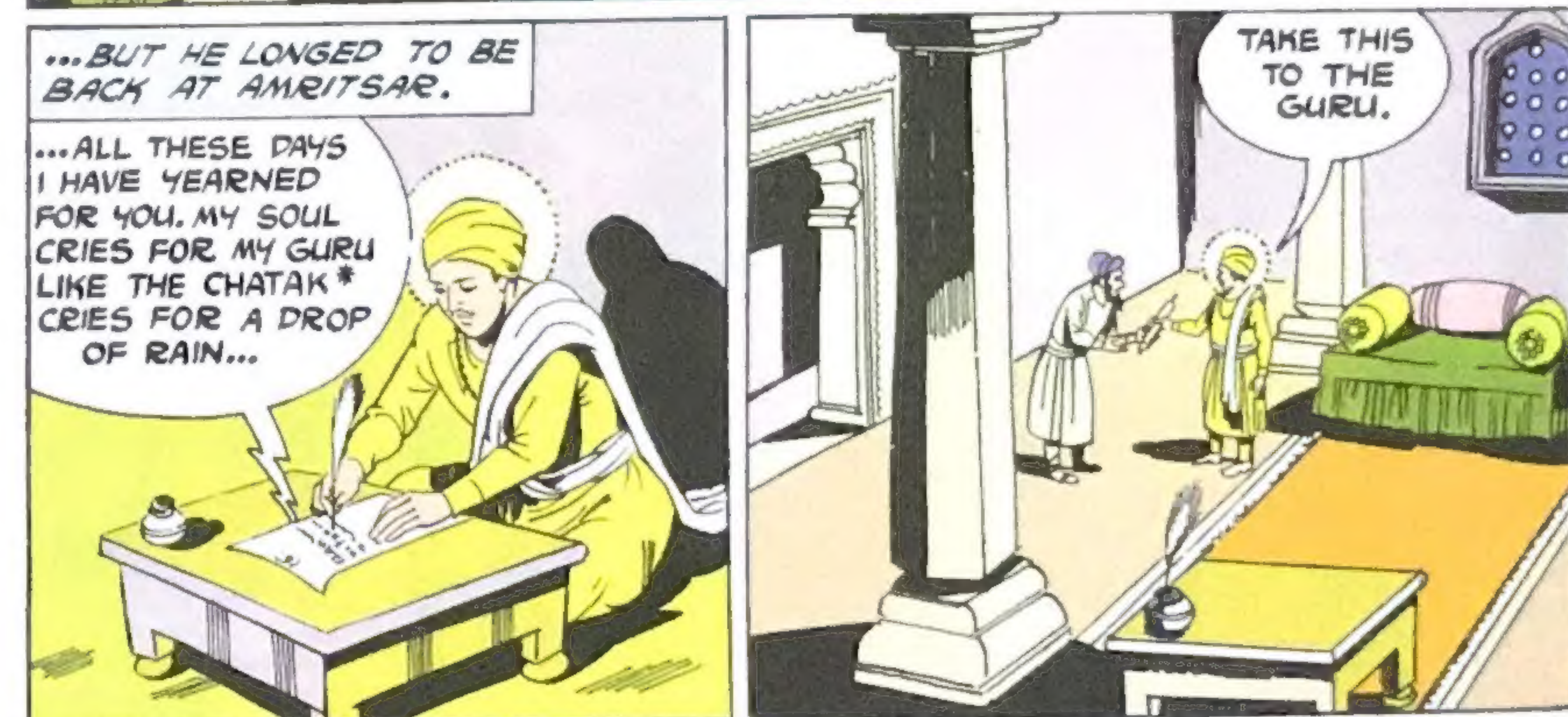
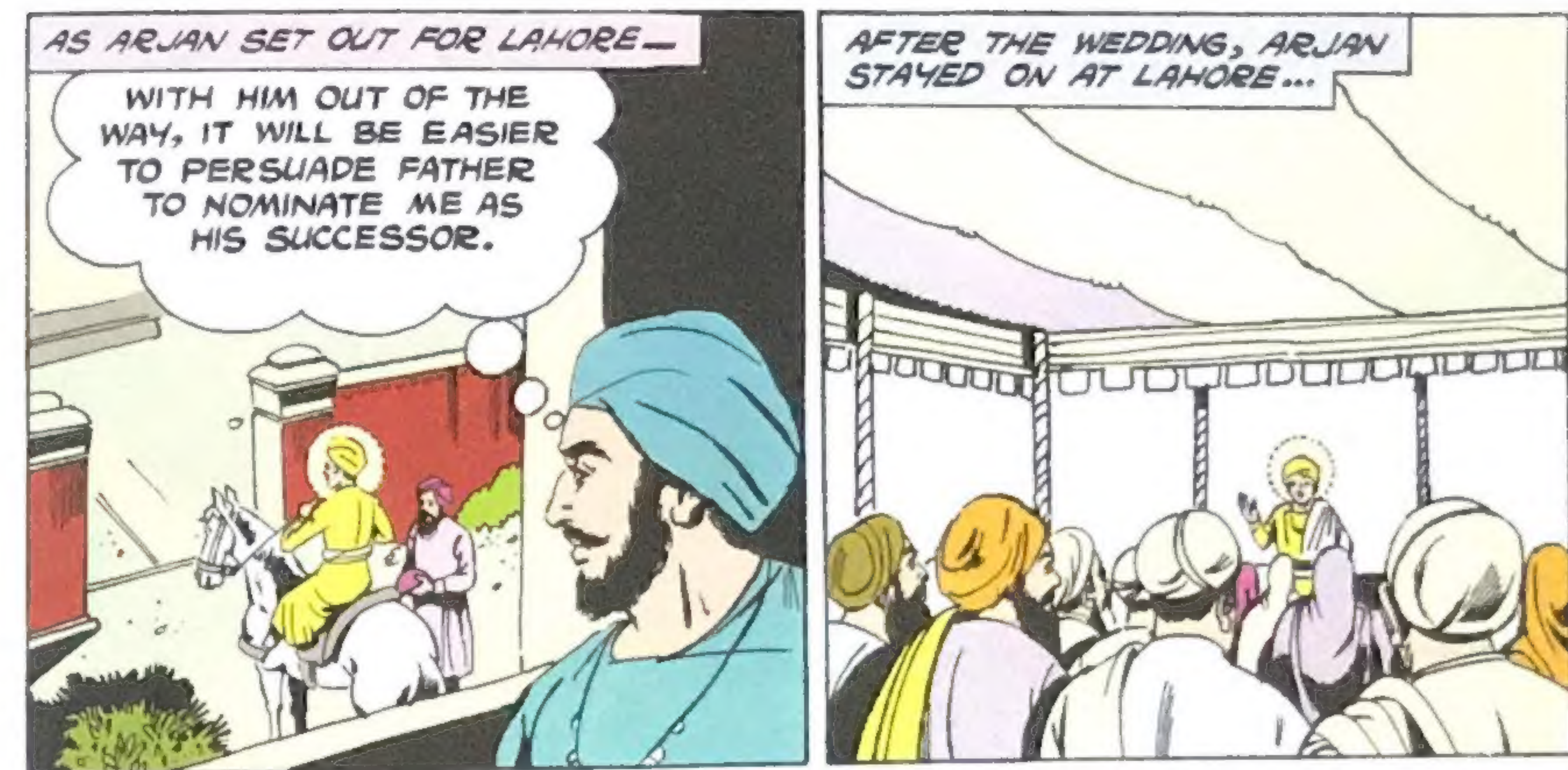
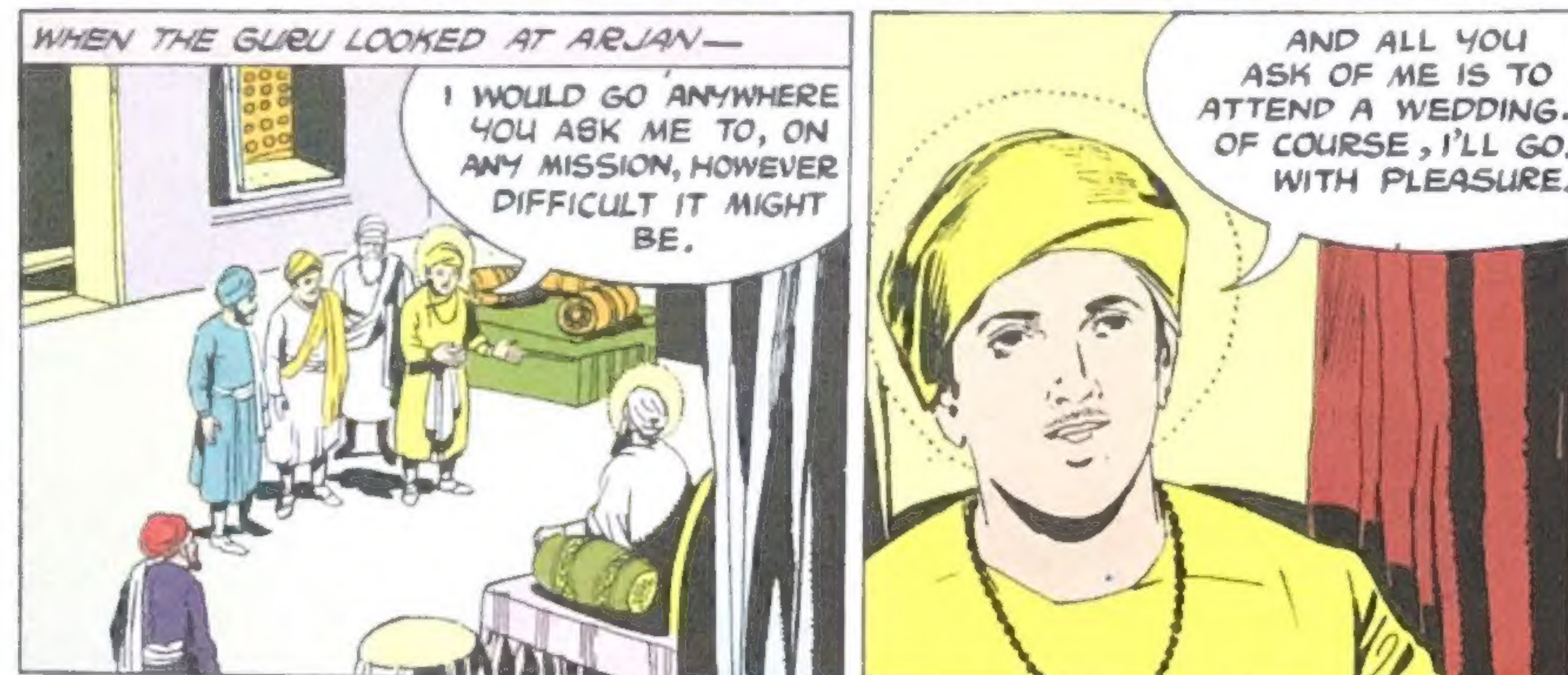
I WOULD BE HONoured IF YOU COULD ATTEND MY SON'S WEDDING.

I CANNOT LEAVE AMRITSAR AT THE MOMENT, BROTHER.



BUT ONE OF MY SONS WILL CERTAINLY ATTEND THE WEDDING.





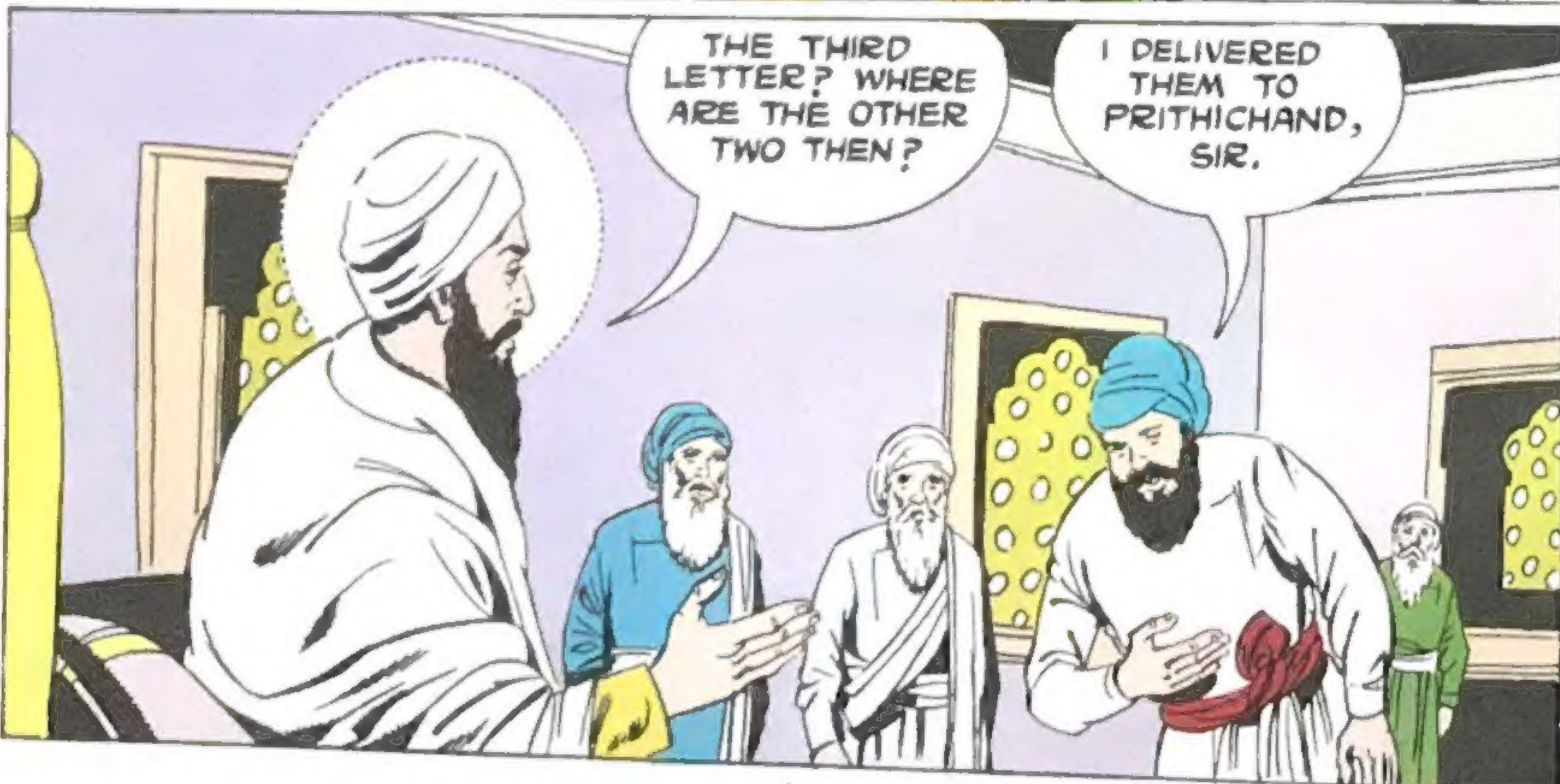
AFTER A WHILE, ARJAN WROTE AGAIN.



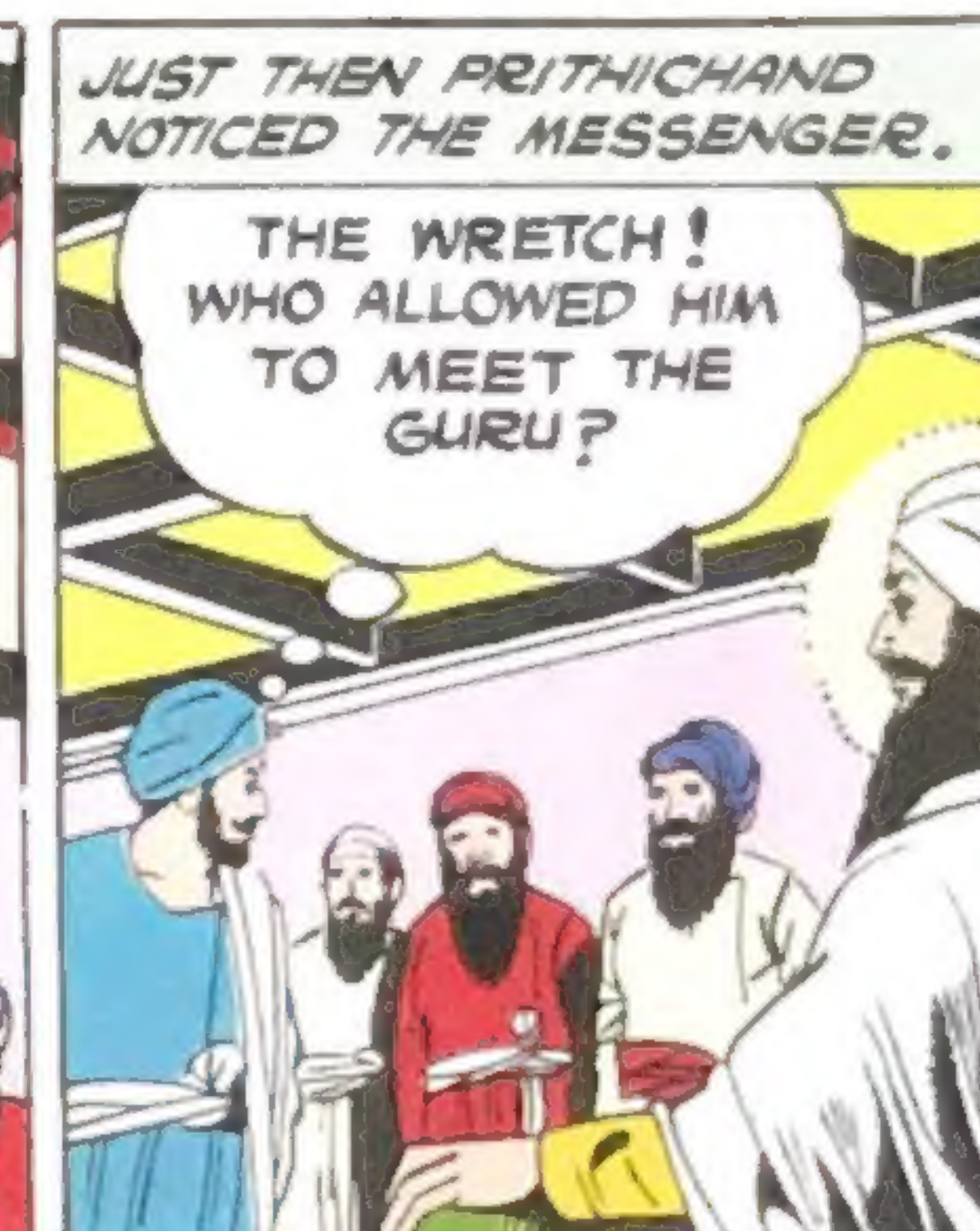
...ARJAN WROTE YET ANOTHER.



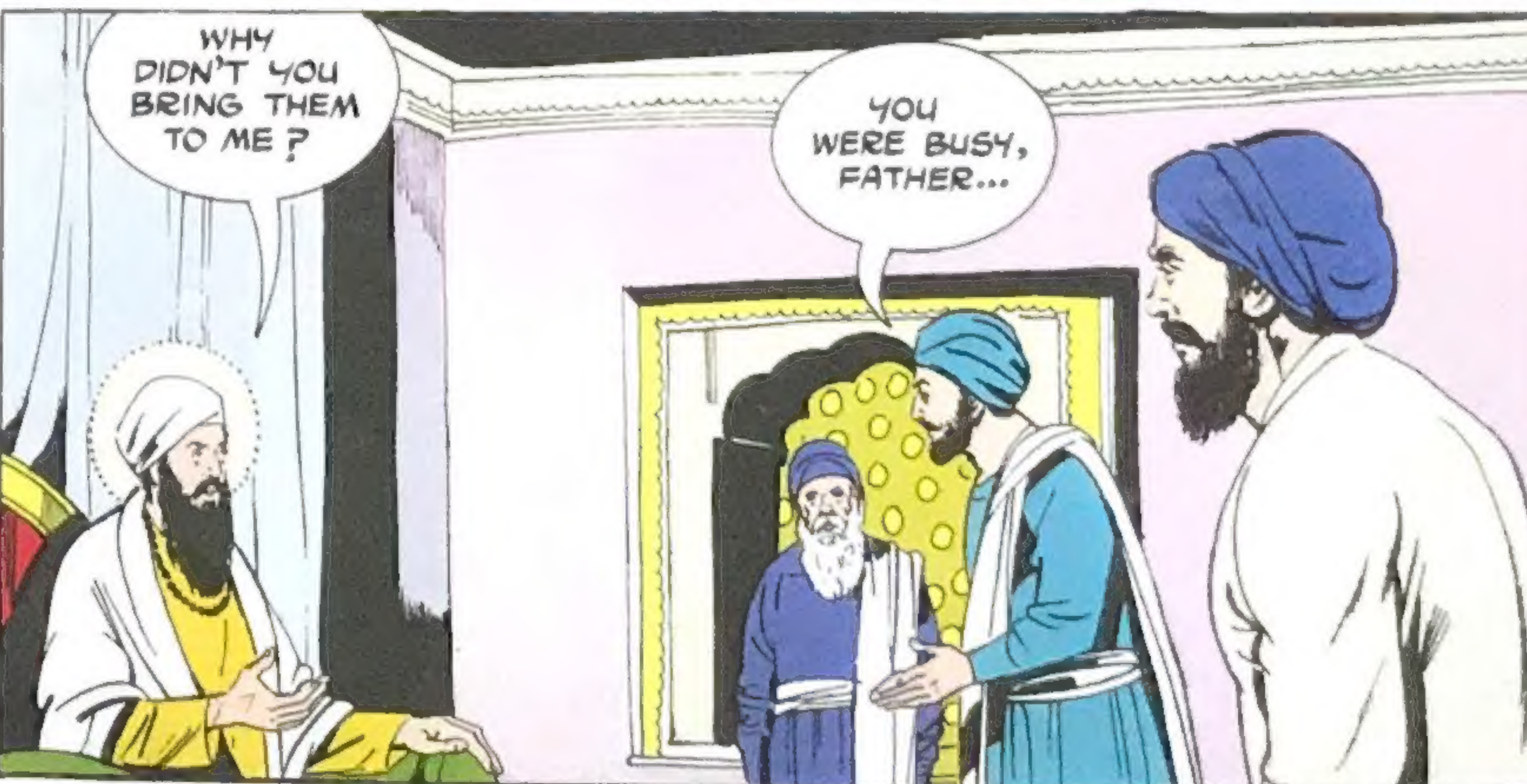
WHEN THE GURU RECEIVED THE LETTER HE OPENED IT AT ONCE.

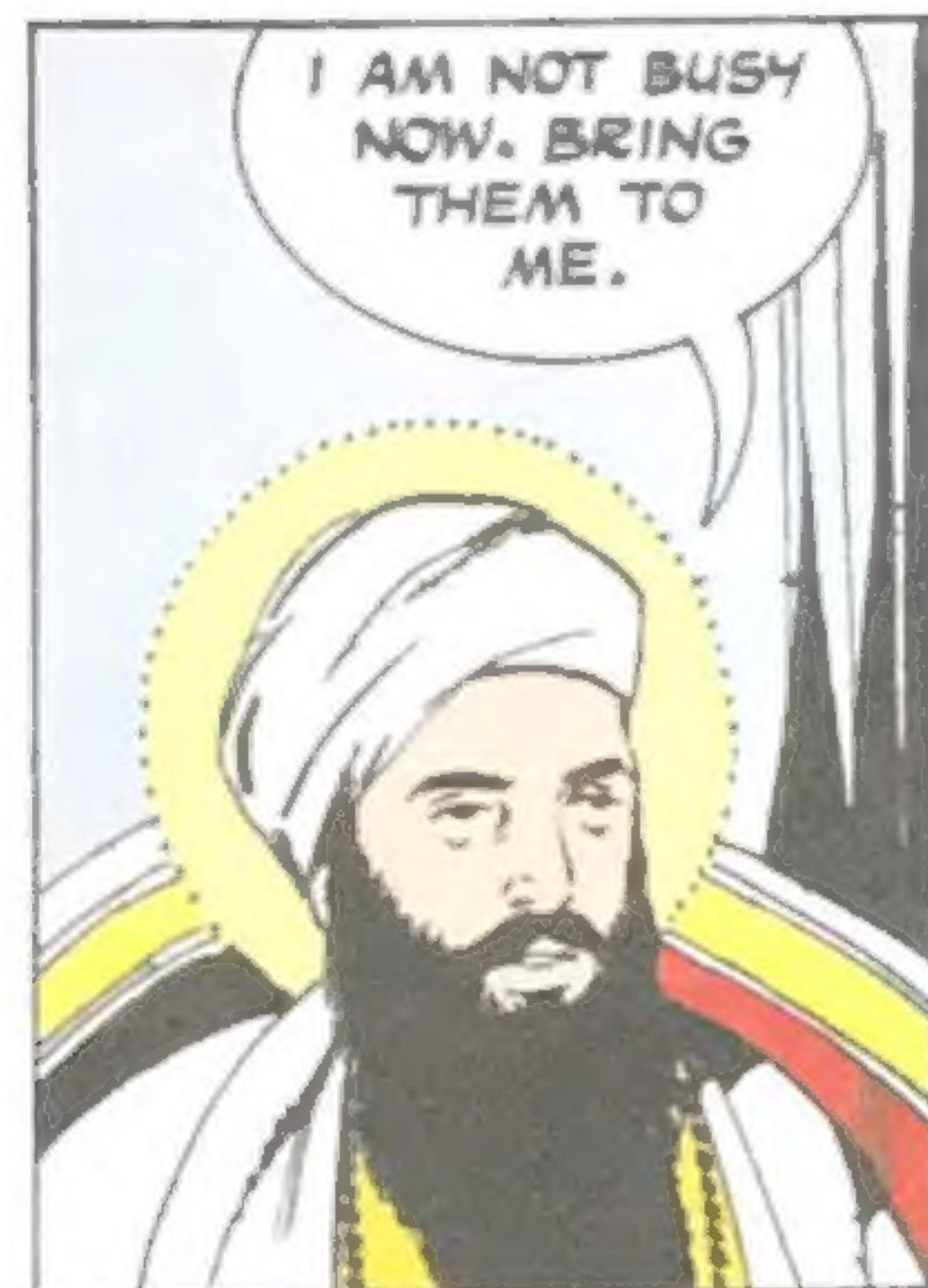


AT THAT MOMENT, PRITHICHAND WALKED IN.



PRITHI, I AM WAITING FOR AN ANSWER.





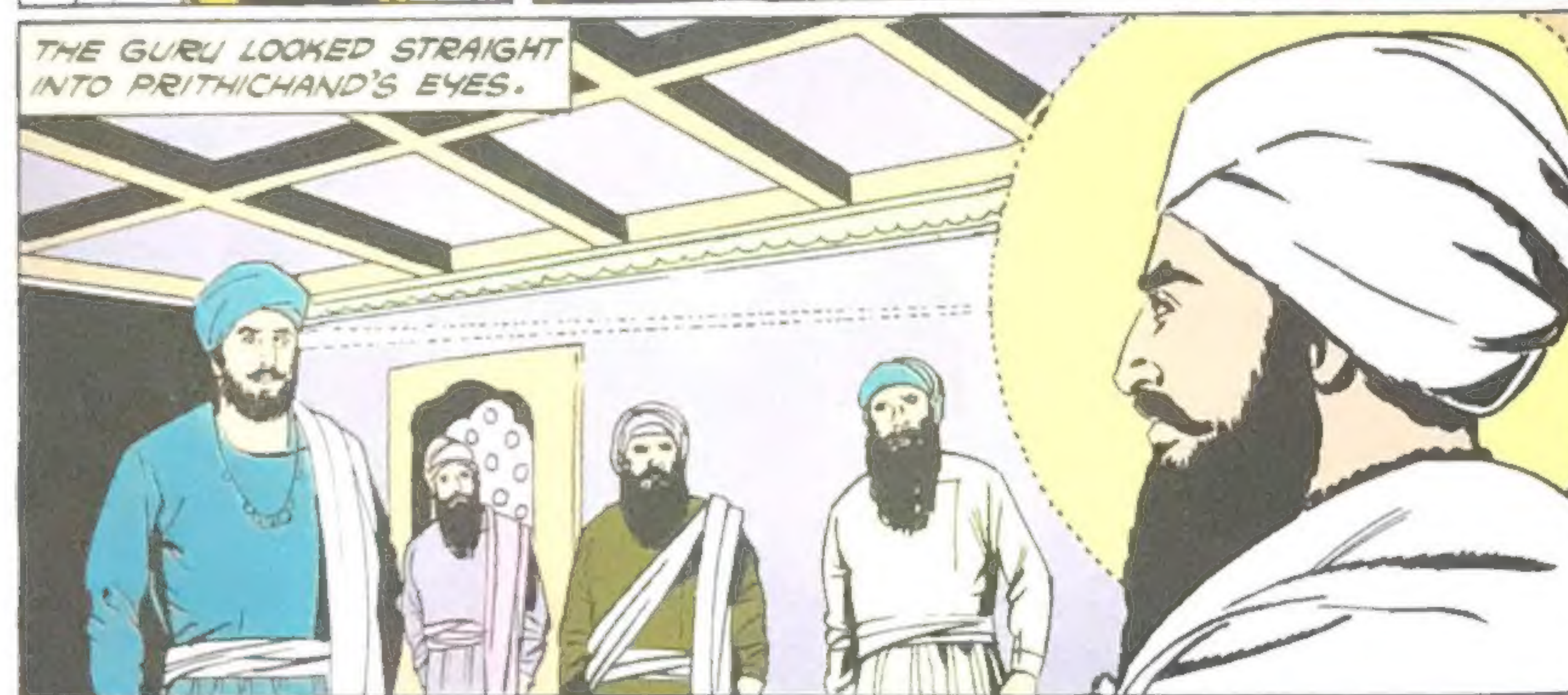
I AM NOT BUSY NOW. BRING THEM TO ME.



IF I LET YOU READ THOSE LETTERS, YOU'LL APPOINT ARJAN AS YOUR SUCCESSOR.



I AM SORRY, FATHER. I DON'T REMEMBER WHERE I KEPT THEM.

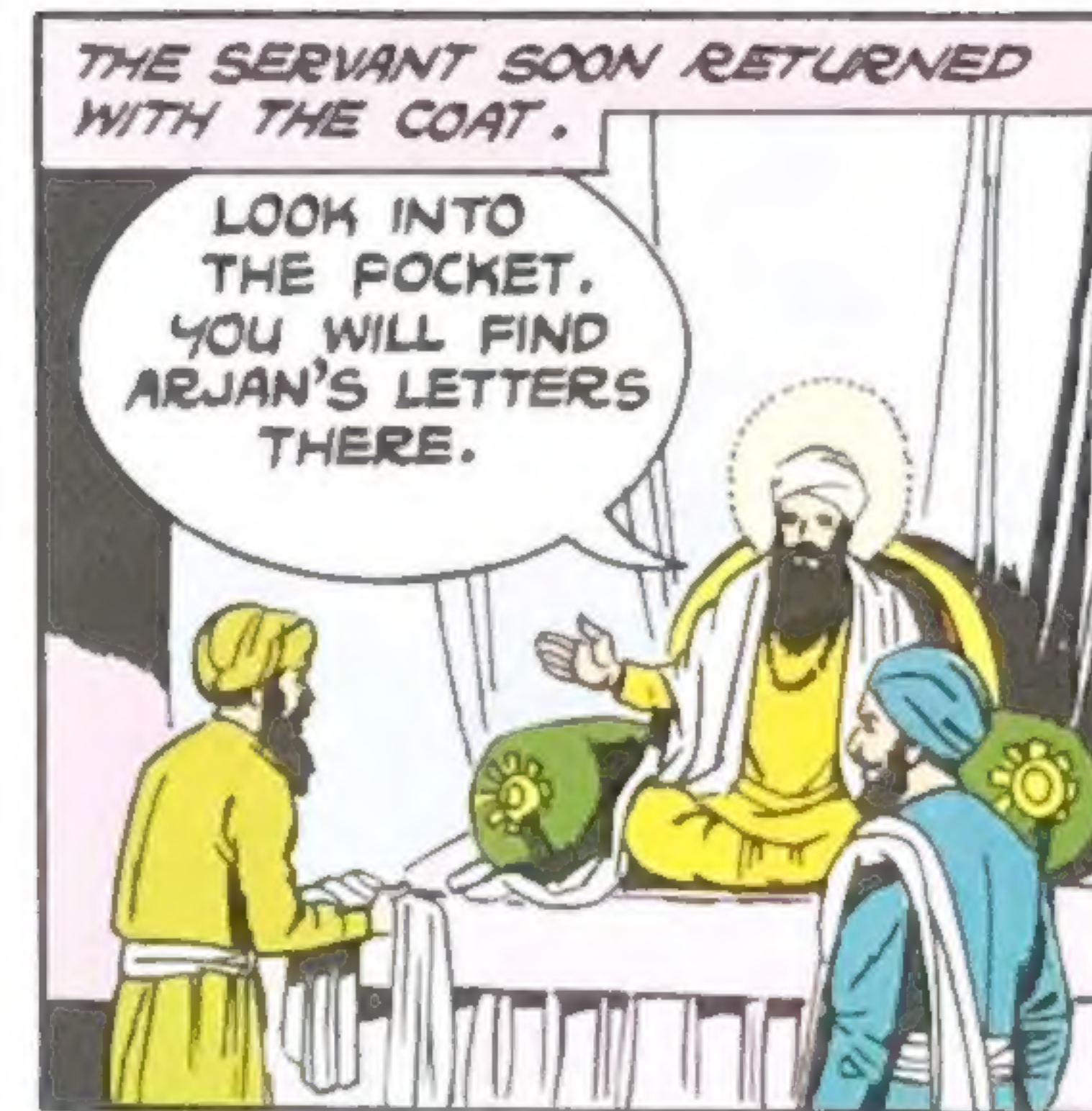


THE GURU LOOKED STRAIGHT INTO PRITHICHAND'S EYES.



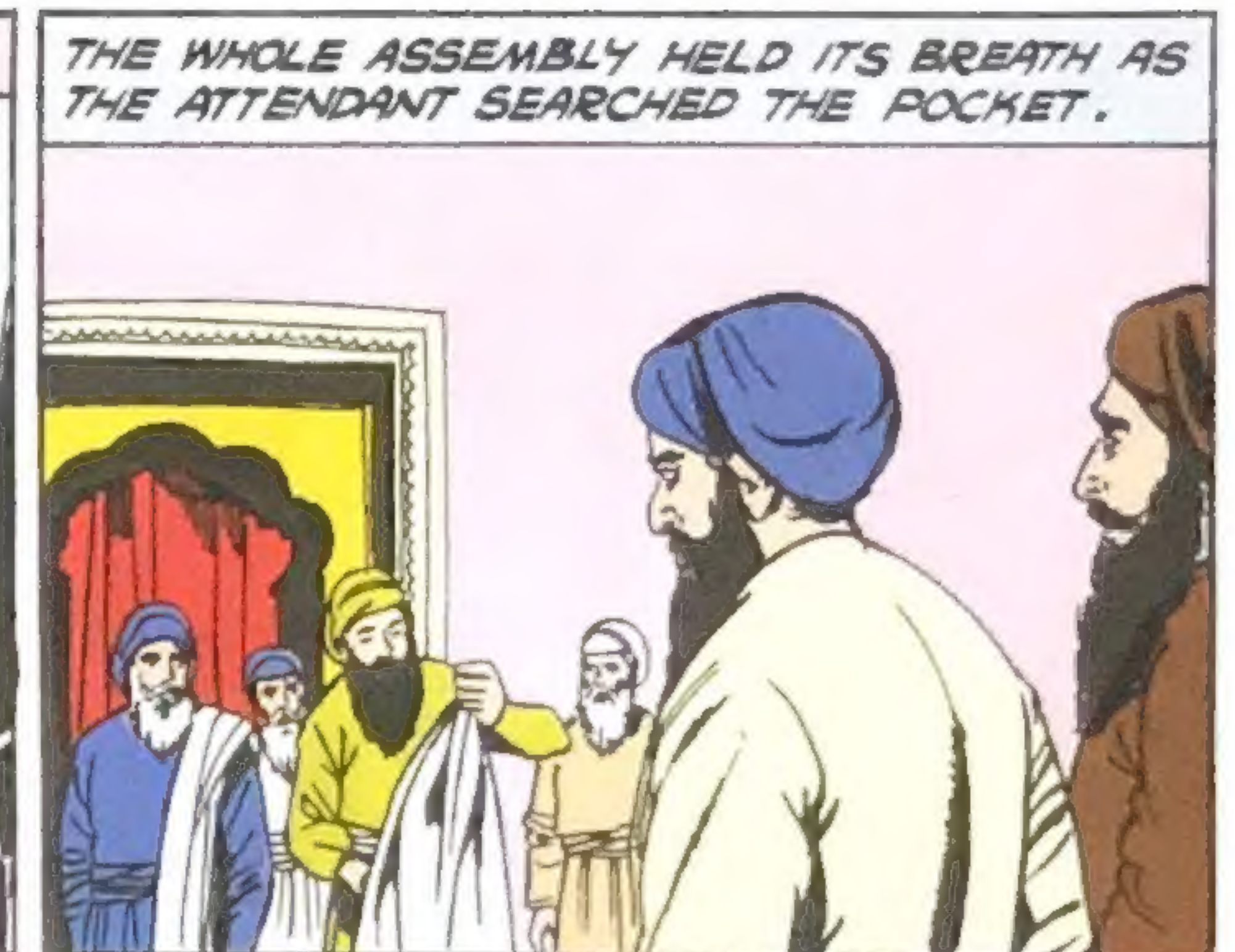
THEN HE TURNED TO ONE OF THE ATTENDANTS.

GO TO PRITHI'S HOUSE AND BRING HIS COAT HERE.



THE SERVANT SOON RETURNED WITH THE COAT.

LOOK INTO THE POCKET. YOU WILL FIND ARJAN'S LETTERS THERE.



THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY HELD ITS BREATH AS THE ATTENDANT SEARCHED THE POCKET.



THE NEXT MINUTE —

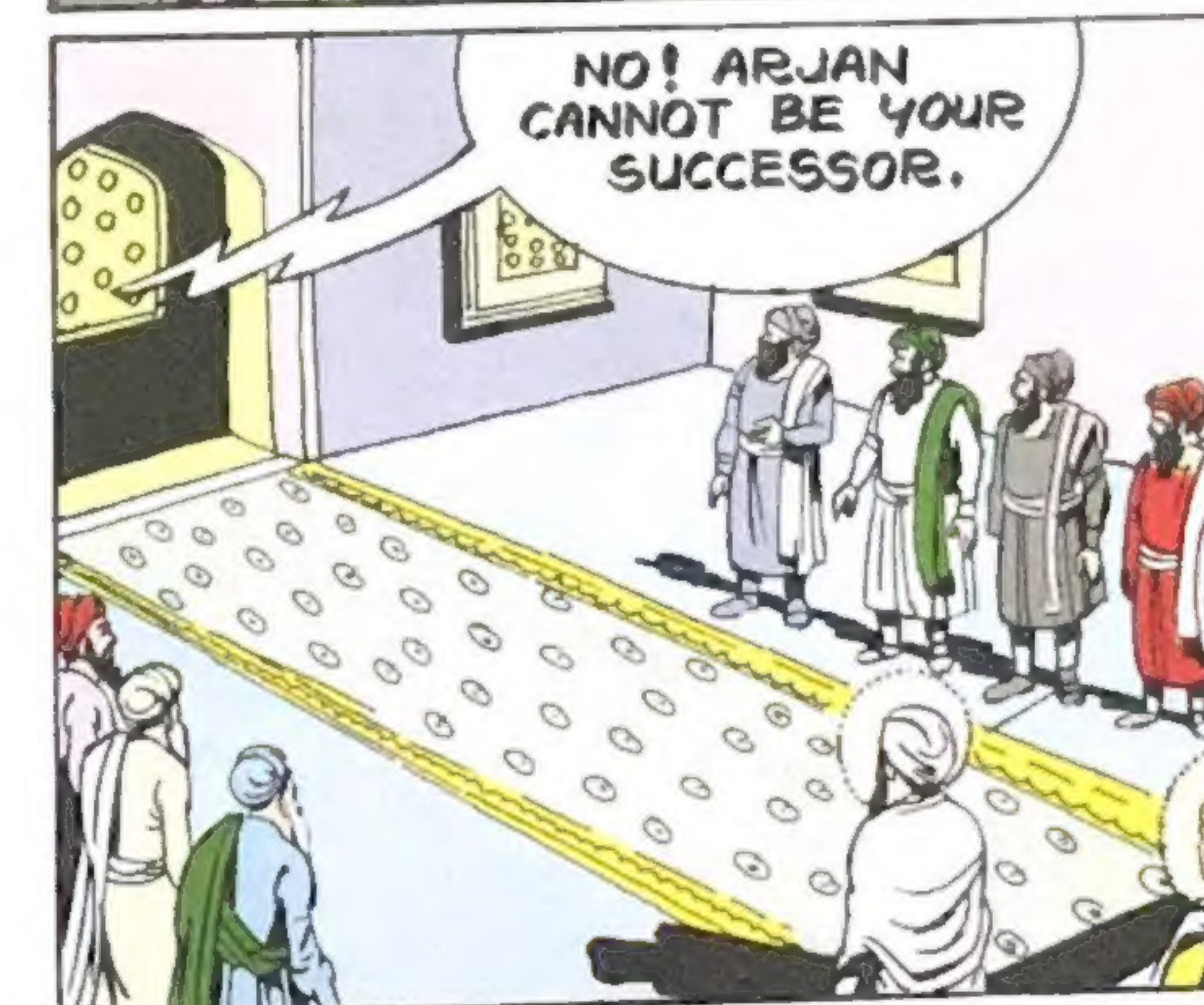
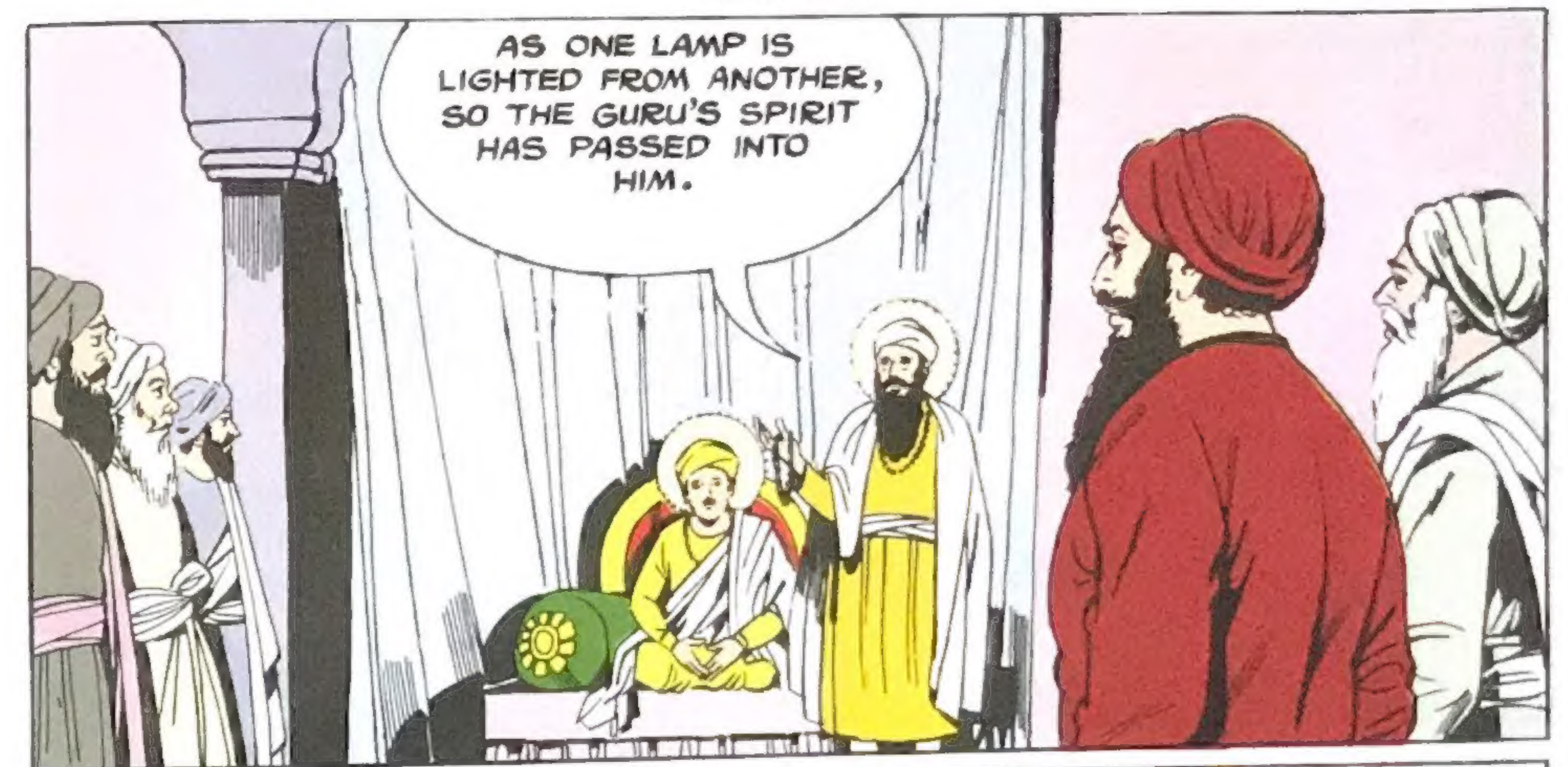
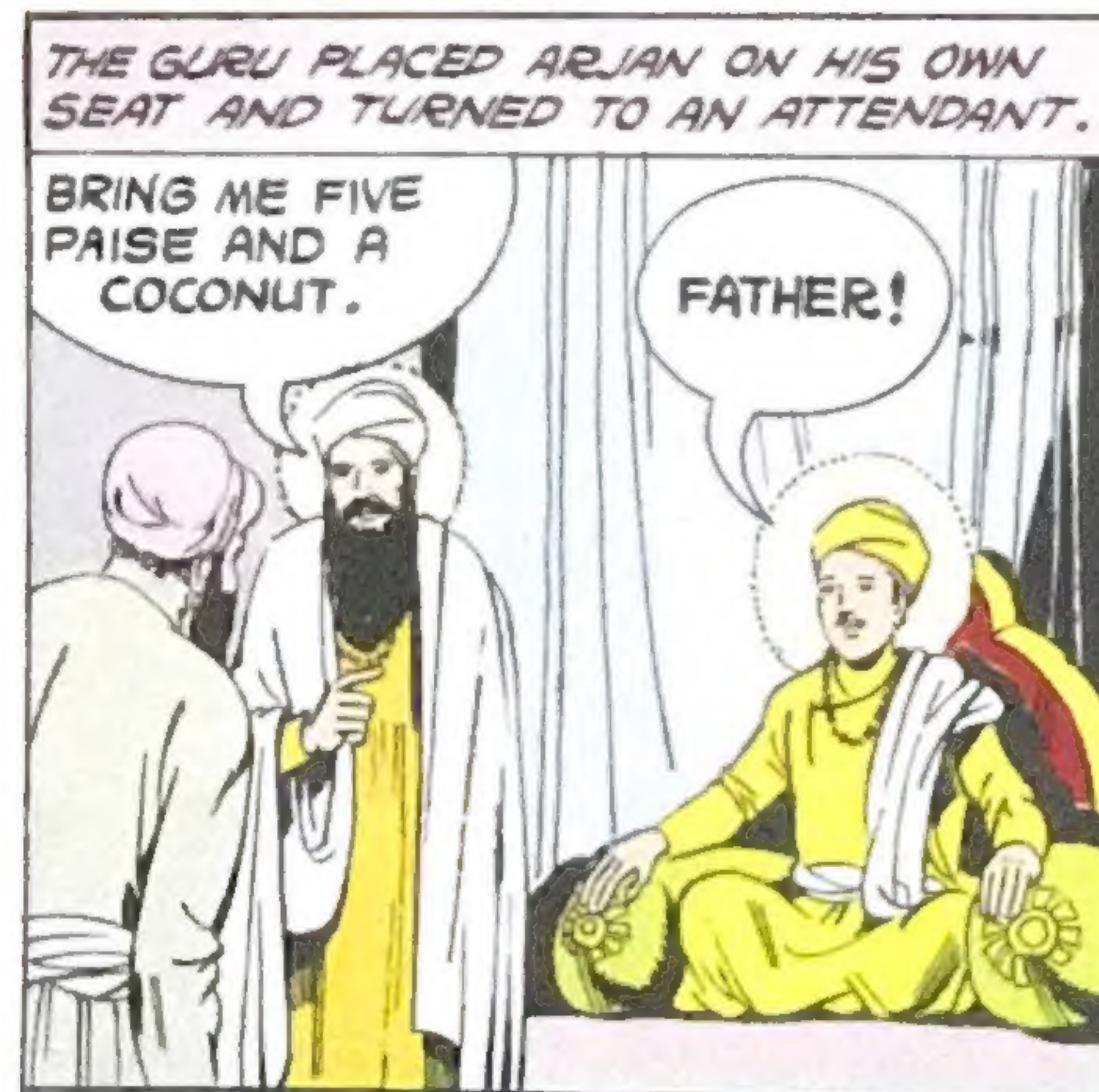


FATHER... I...

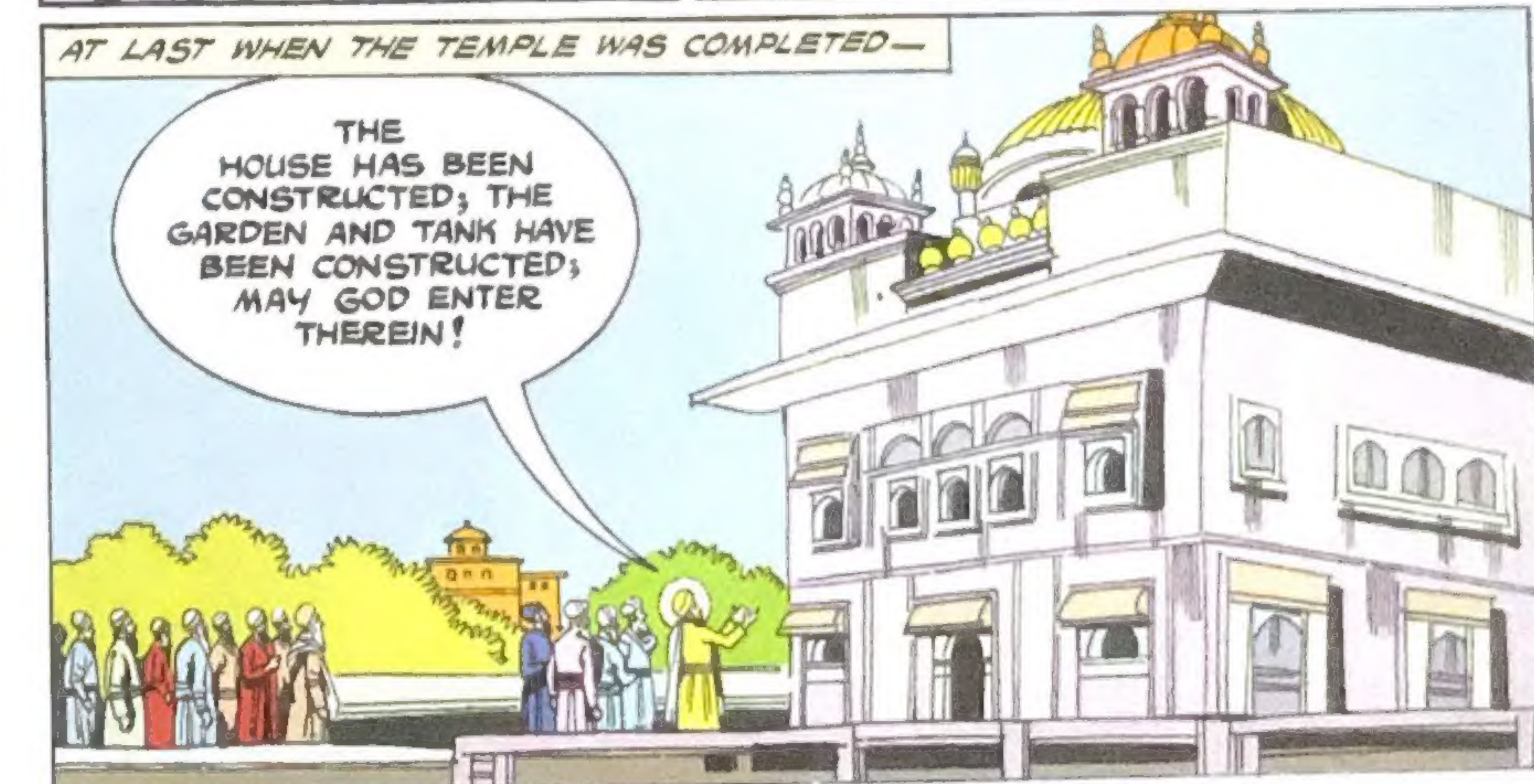
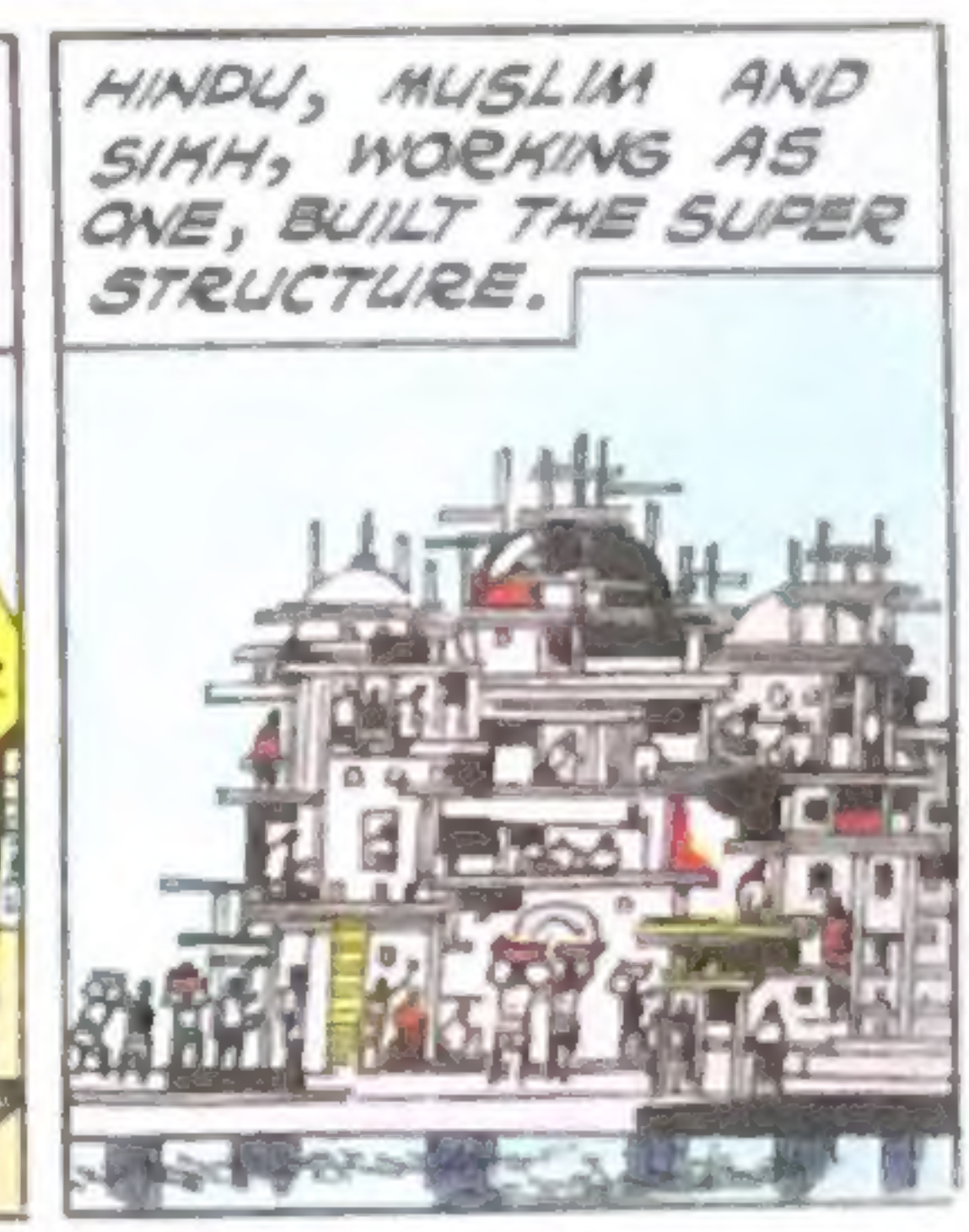
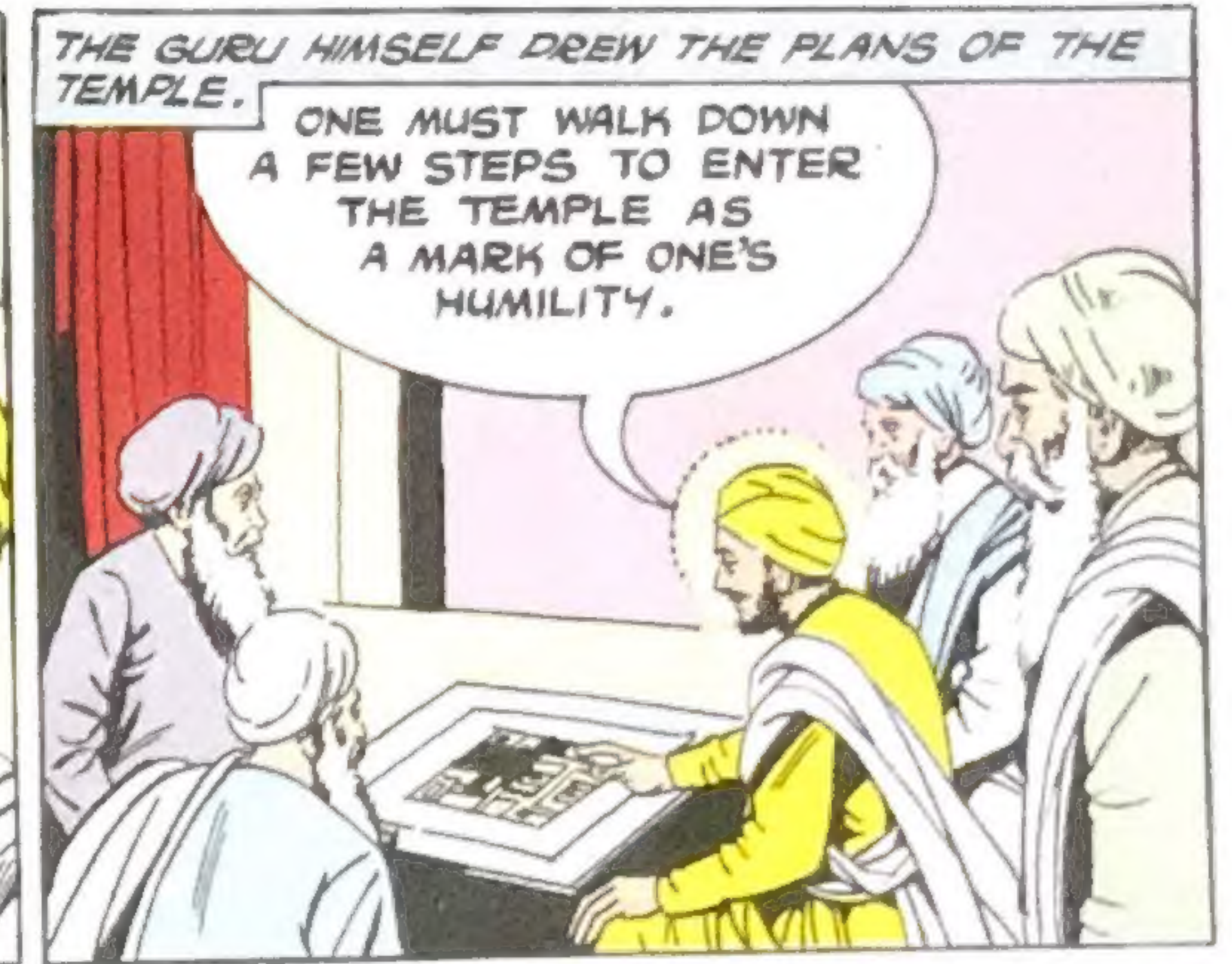
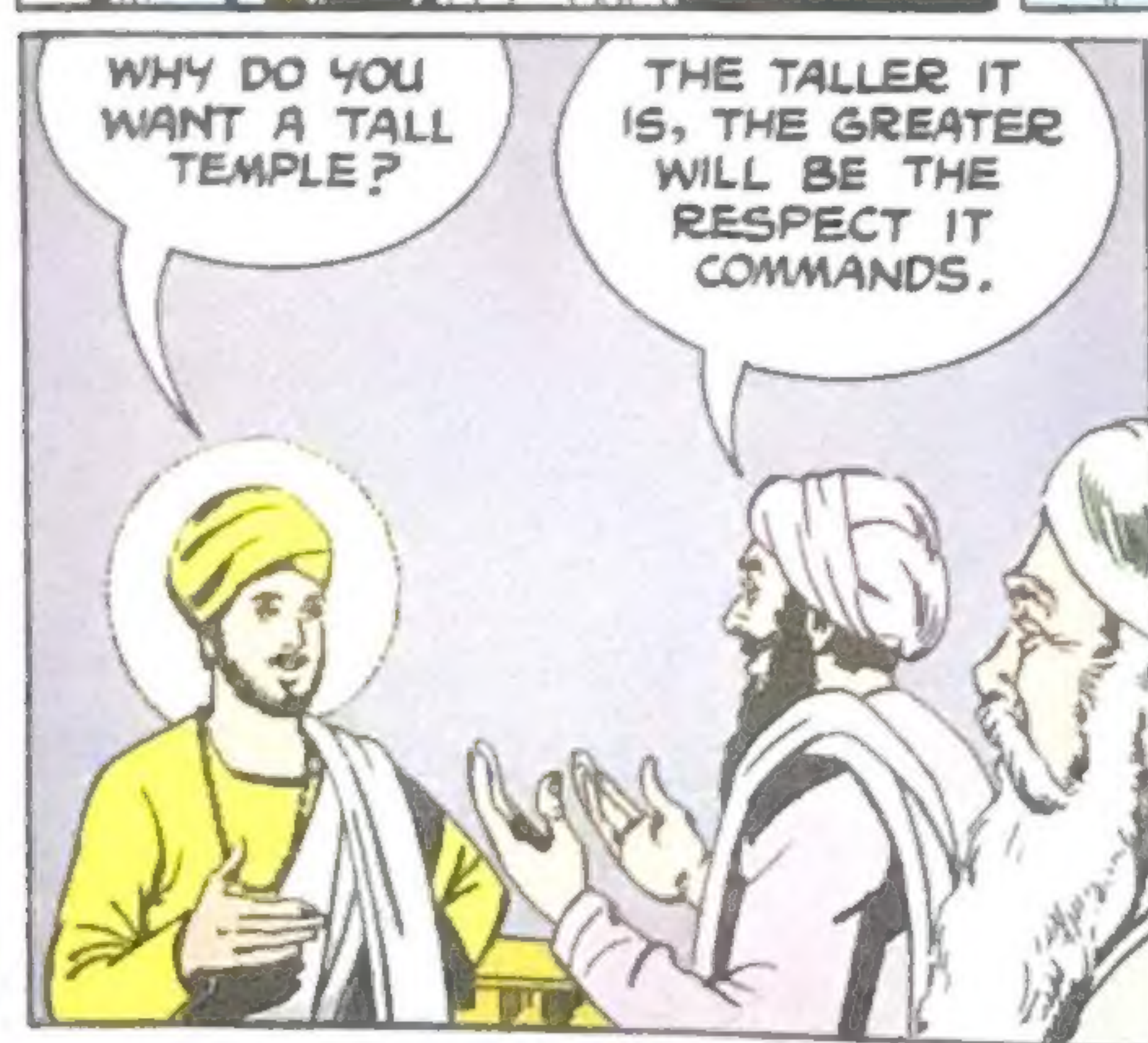
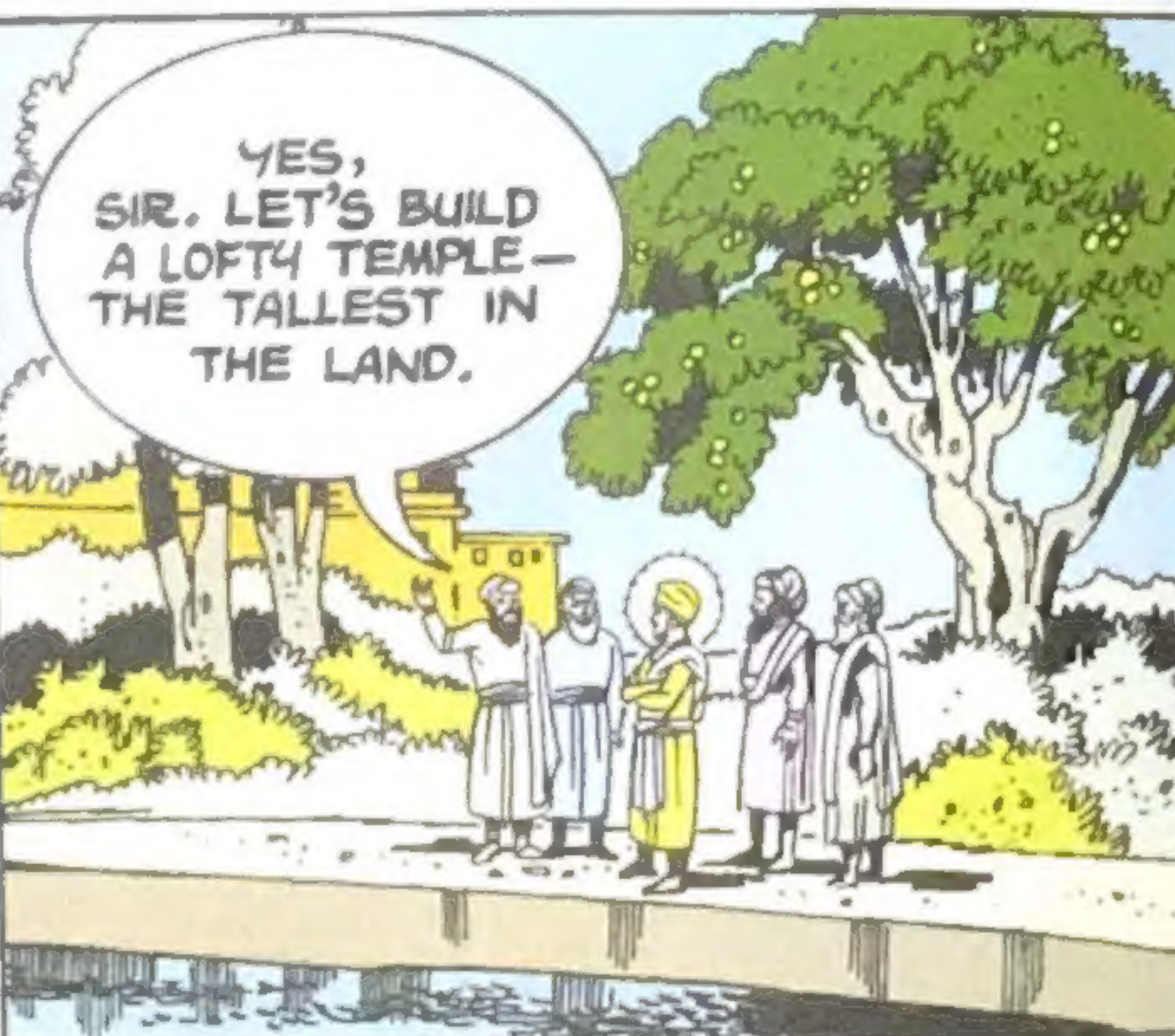
NOT A WORD FROM YOU.



I WANTED ALL OF YOU TO JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES WHETHER PRITHI IS NOBLE OR BASE, OBEDIENT OR DISOBEDIENT.



NOT LONG AFTERWARDS GURU RAMDAS BREATHED HIS LAST. THE EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD ARJAN BECAME THE GURU. ONE DAY—



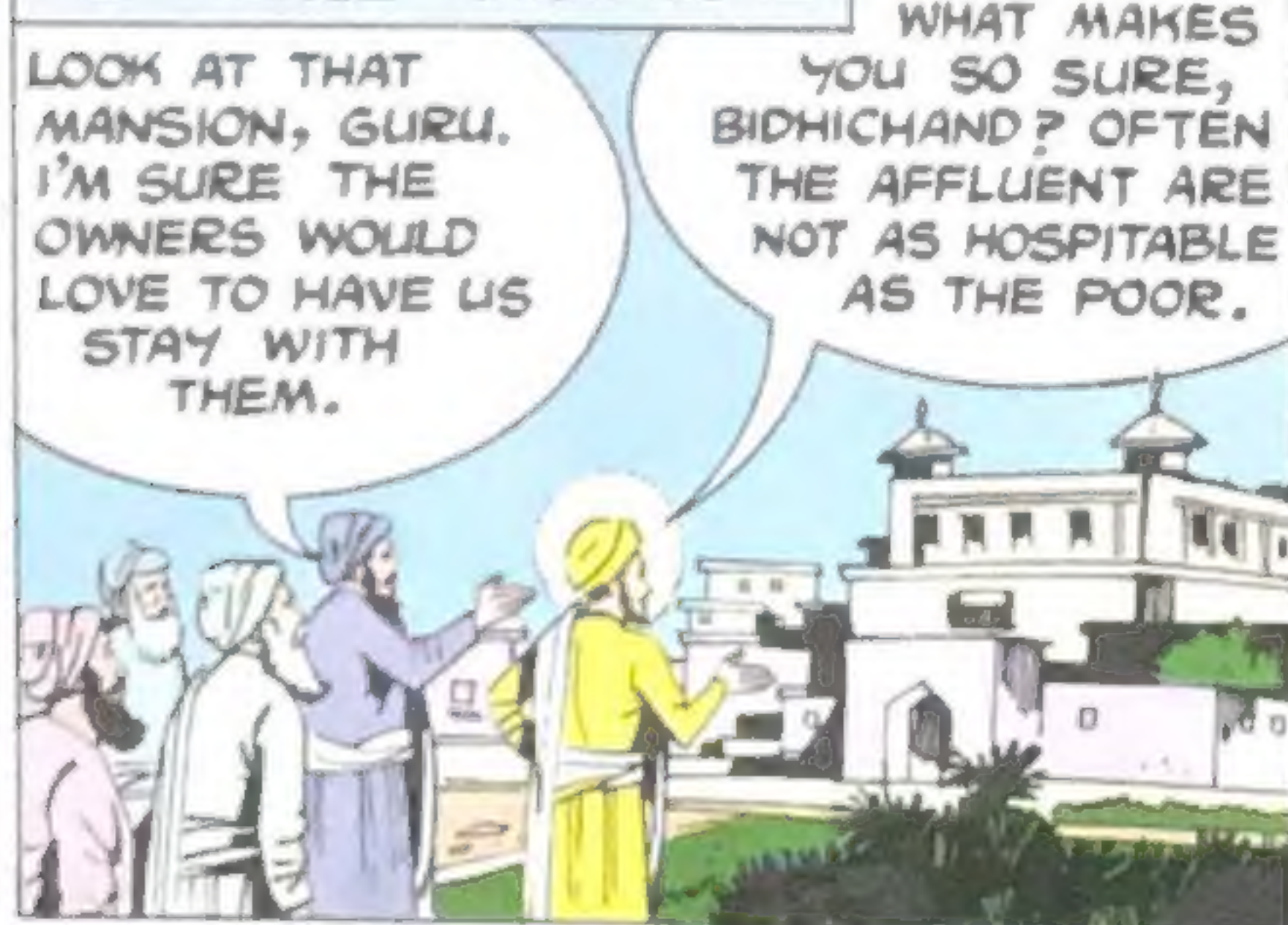
BUT PRITHICHAND'S CONTINUED HOSTILITY DISTURBED THE GURU.



SO, ACCOMPANIED BY FIVE SIKHS, HE LEFT AMRITSAR.



THEY VISITED SEVERAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES. ONCE WHEN THEY WERE PASSING THROUGH THE VILLAGE KHANPUR*



BUT WHEN BIDHICHAND INSISTED THAT THERE WAS NO HARM IN TRYING—



A SHORT WHILE LATER BIDHICHAND RETURNED.



* BETWEEN GOINDWAL AND THE PRESENT TARN TARAN

SO THEY CHOSE A SHADY TREE AND SETTLED UNDER IT. JUST THEN HEMA, A POOR CORN-GRINDER, CAME THERE.



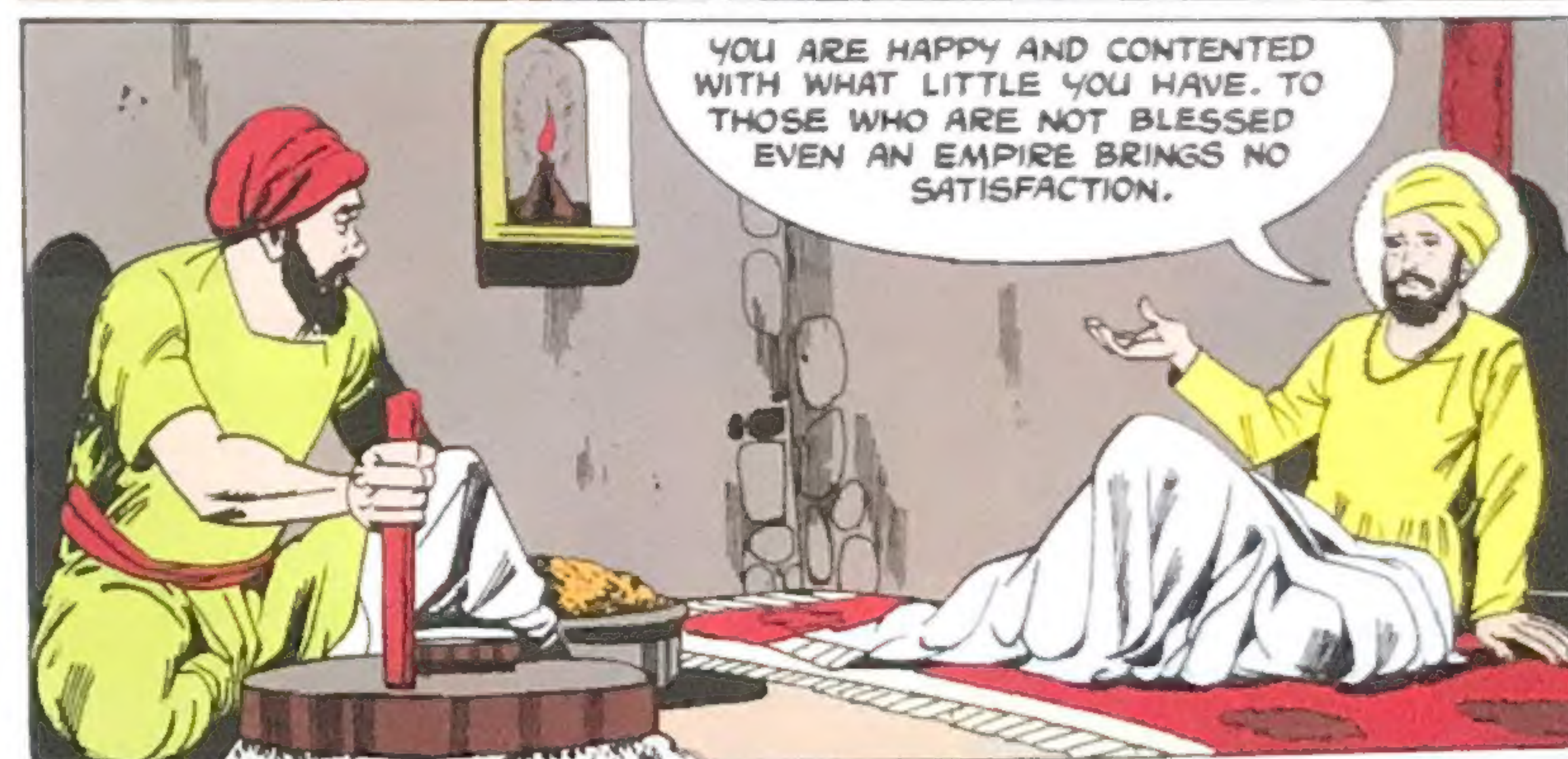
THE GURU WENT TO HEMA'S HUT AND STAYED THERE WITH HIS FOLLOWERS.



AFTER THE MEAL —



THE GURU RESTED AS HEMA GROUND THE CORN.



AFTER HIS LONG TOUR, GURU ARJAN RETURNED TO AMRITSAR MUCH TO THE ANNOYANCE OF PRITHICHAND



A FAITHFUL SIKH INFORMED THE GURU OF PRITHI'S EVIL PLAN.

O GURU, I BEG YOU TO LEAVE AMRITSAR.

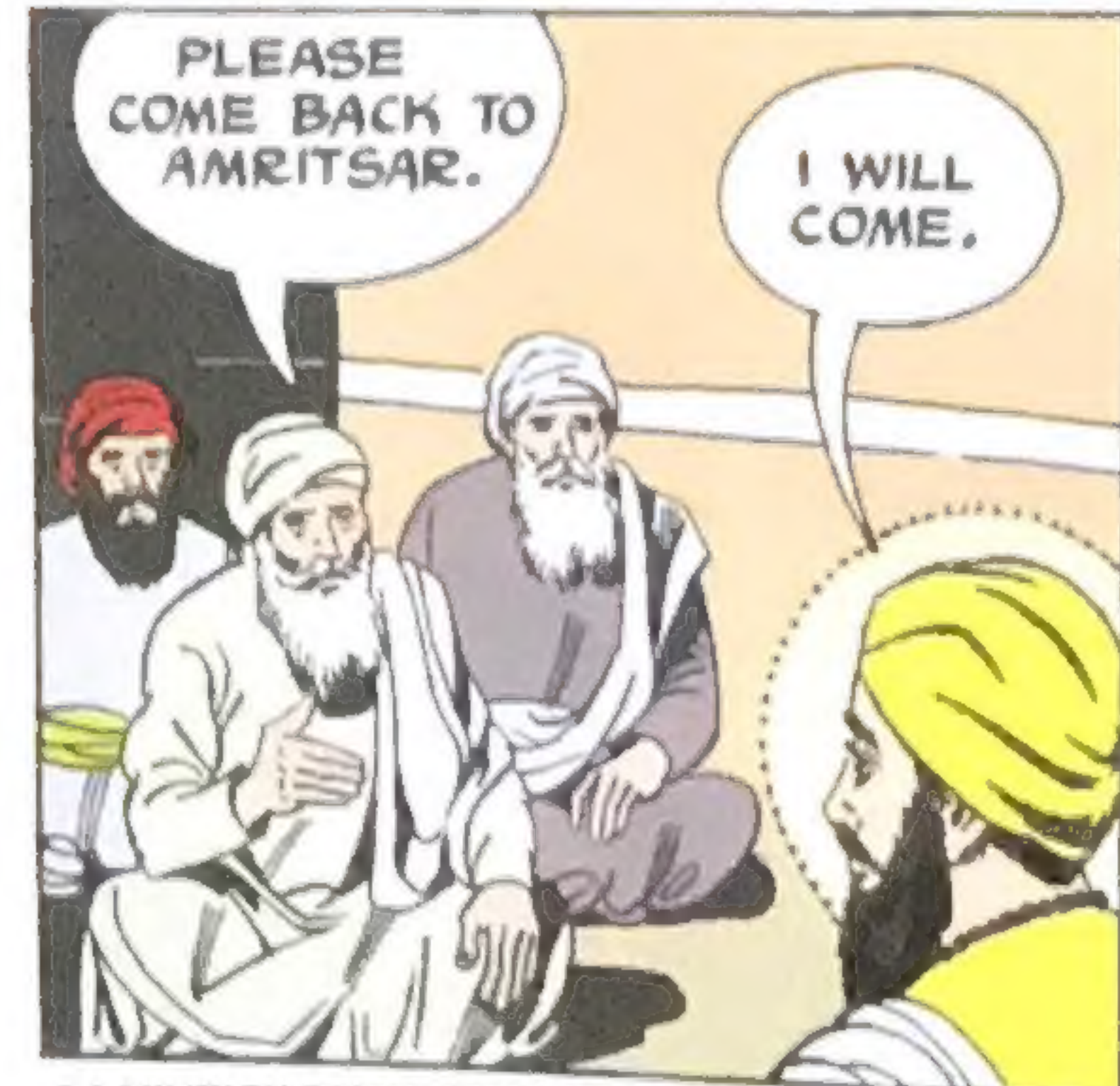


THUS GURU ARJAN LEFT AMRITSAR FOR THE SECOND TIME. HE TOOK SHELTER IN THE VILLAGE, WADALI, WHERE HIS WIFE WAS DELIVERED OF A SON WHO WOULD LATER SUCCEED HIM AS GURU HARGOBIND.

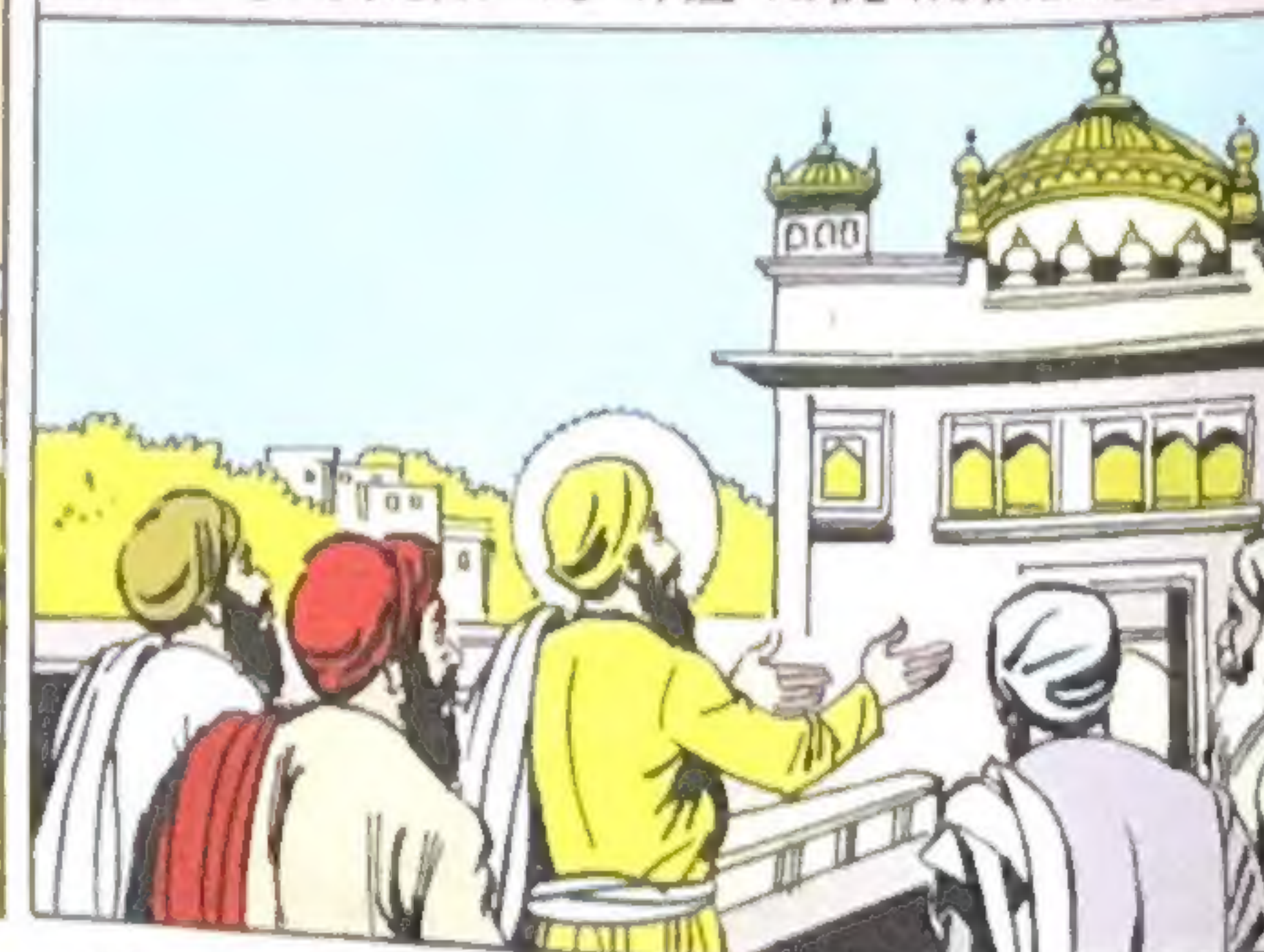


WHEN HARGOBIND WAS TWO YEARS OLD A DEPUTATION OF THE SIKHS OF AMRITSAR VISITED WADALI.

MANY SIKHS FROM DISTANT LANDS COME TO AMRITSAR TO SEE YOU AND GO BACK DISAPPOINTED.

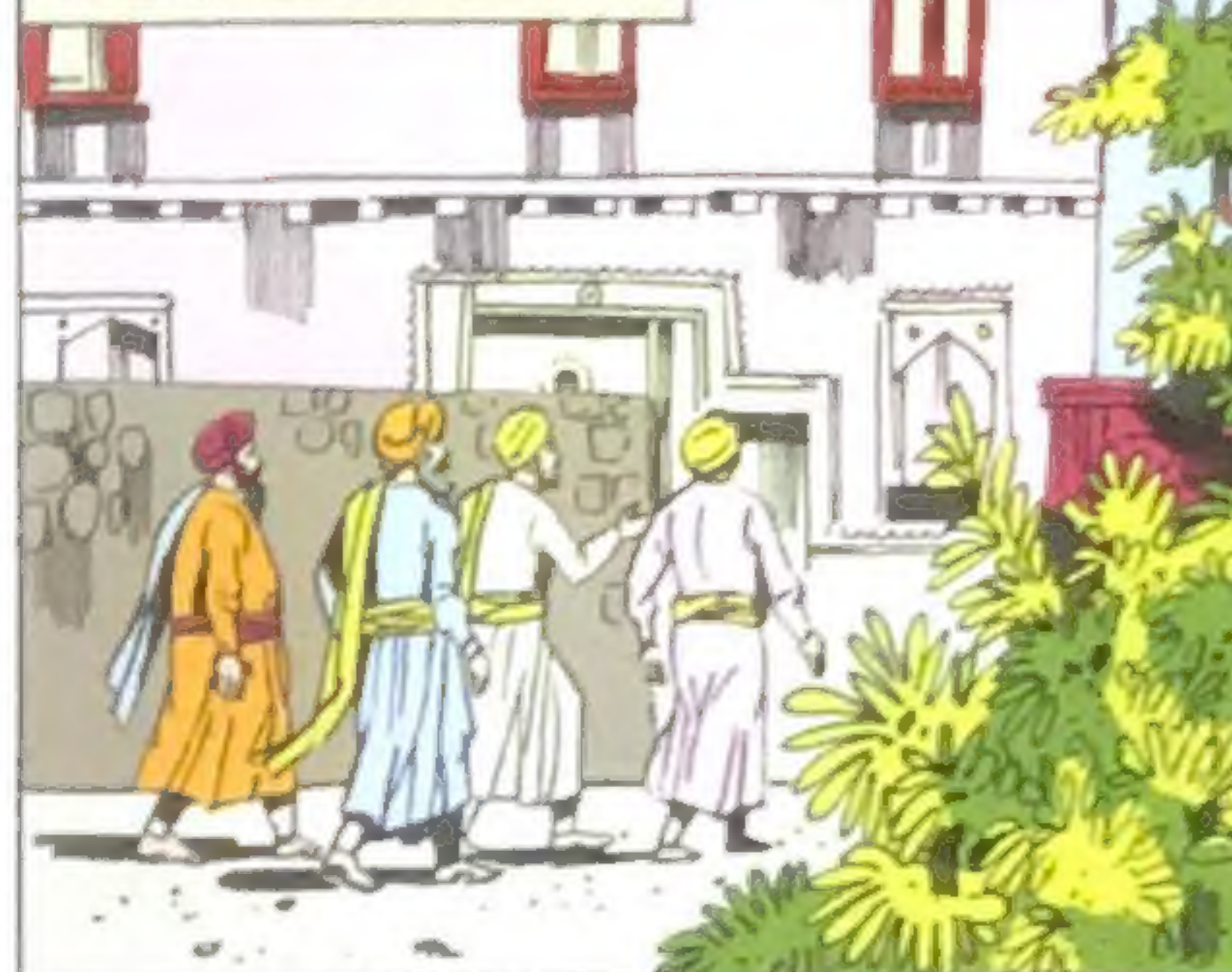


ON HIS RETURN TO AMRITSAR THE GURU WENT STRAIGHT TO THE HAR MANDIR.



* A MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE MUGHAL COURT

ALL THE SIKHS OF AMRITSAR, EXCEPT PRITHICHAND, WERE HAPPY TO SEE THEIR GURU BACK.



MEANWHILE GURU ARJAN DECIDED TO COMPILE THE HYMNS OF ALL THE GURUS.

BHAI GURDAS, I NEED THE ORIGINAL HYMNS OF GURU NANAK. MOHAN, MY MATERNAL UNCLE, HAS THEM WITH HIM.



I'LL VISIT MOHAN AND GET THE HYMNS FOR YOU.



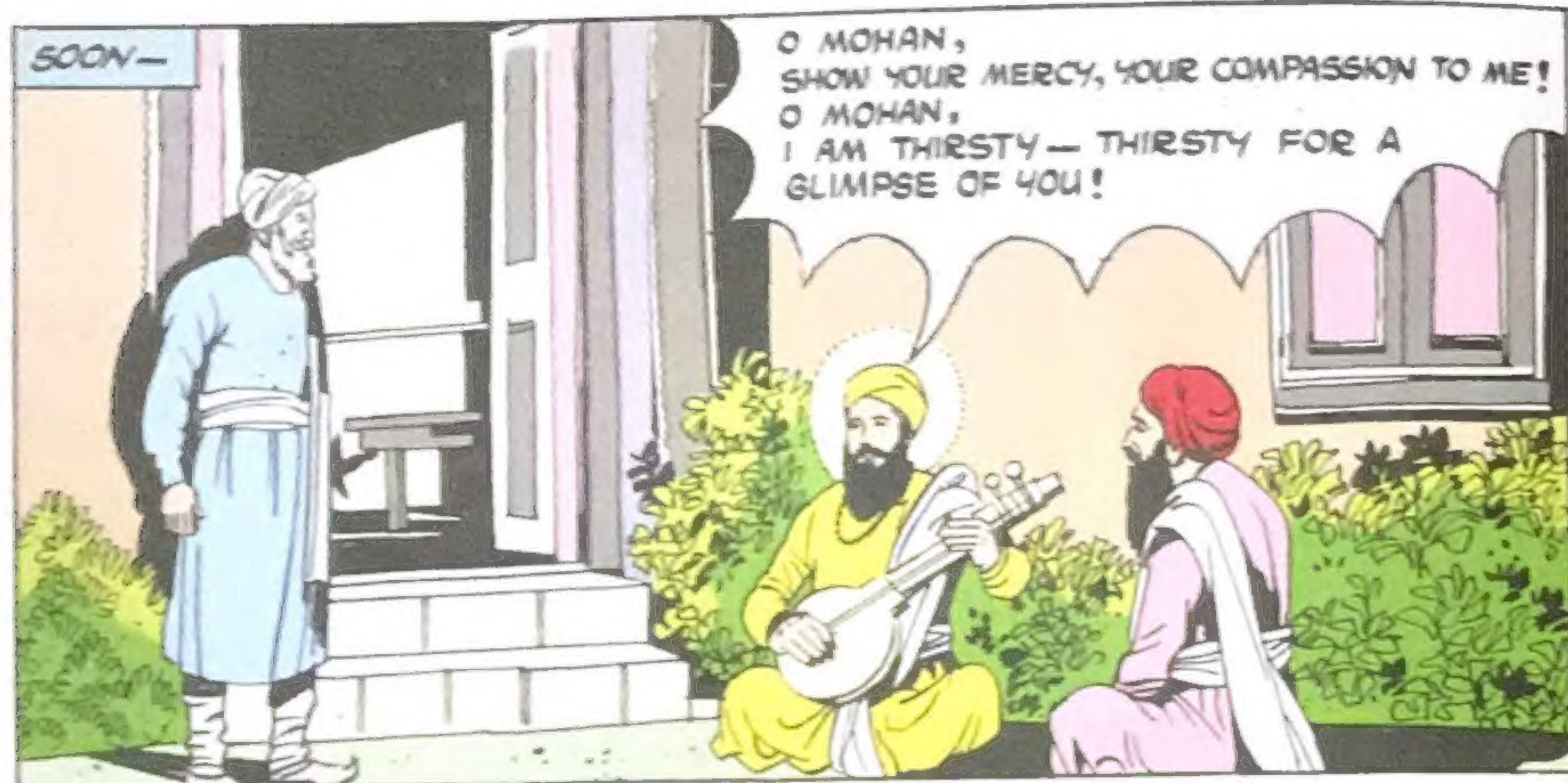
BHAI GURDAS WENT TO MOHAN'S HOUSE BUT RETURNED EMPTY-HANDED.

MOHAN IS DEEP IN MEDITATION. NO ONE DARES DISTURB HIM. BHAI BUDDHA CAN DO IT.



WHEN BHAI BUDDHA TOO RETURNED WITHOUT THE HYMNS, GURU ARJAN HIMSELF WENT TO MOHAN'S HOUSE.

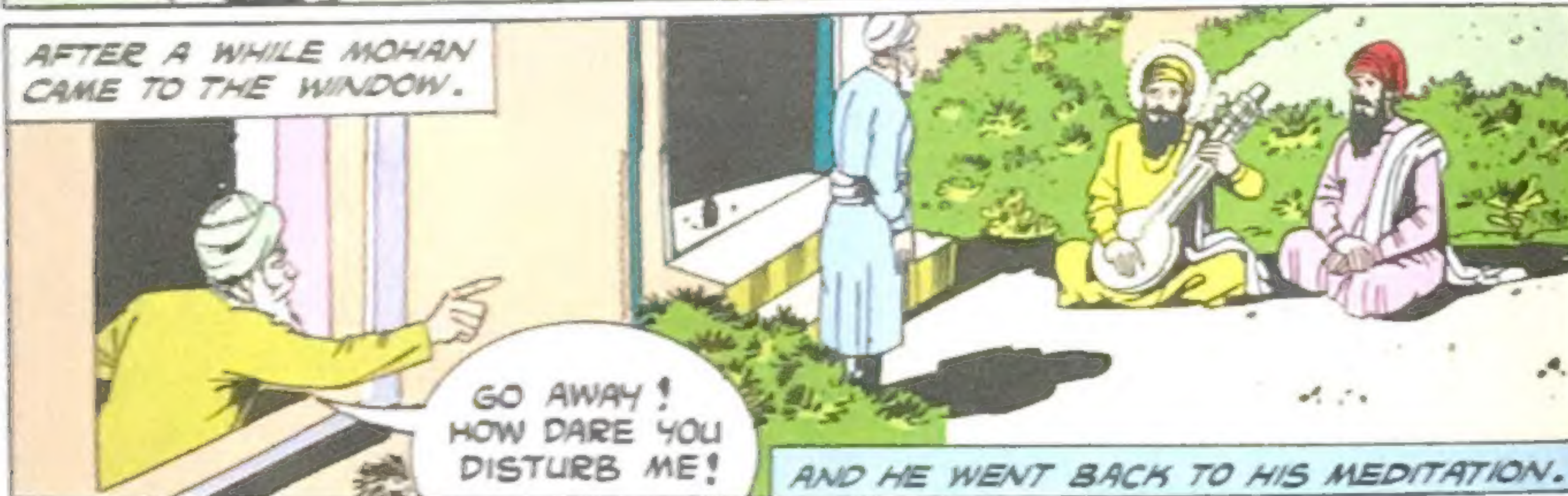




SOON—

O MOHAN,
SHOW YOUR MERCY, YOUR COMPASSION TO ME!
O MOHAN,
I AM THIRSTY— THIRSTY FOR A
GLIMPSE OF YOU!

AFTER A WHILE MOHAN
CAME TO THE WINDOW.



GO AWAY!
HOW DARE YOU
DISTURB ME!

AND HE WENT BACK TO HIS MEDITATION.

BUT GURU ARJAN WAS NOT PUT
OFF, HE CONTINUED HIS EFFORT.



O MOHAN, MAY
YOUR KINGDOM
EVER ABIDE!

AT LAST MOHAN RELENTED AND CALLED THE
GURU IN.



WHAT DO YOU
WANT, MY
CHILD?

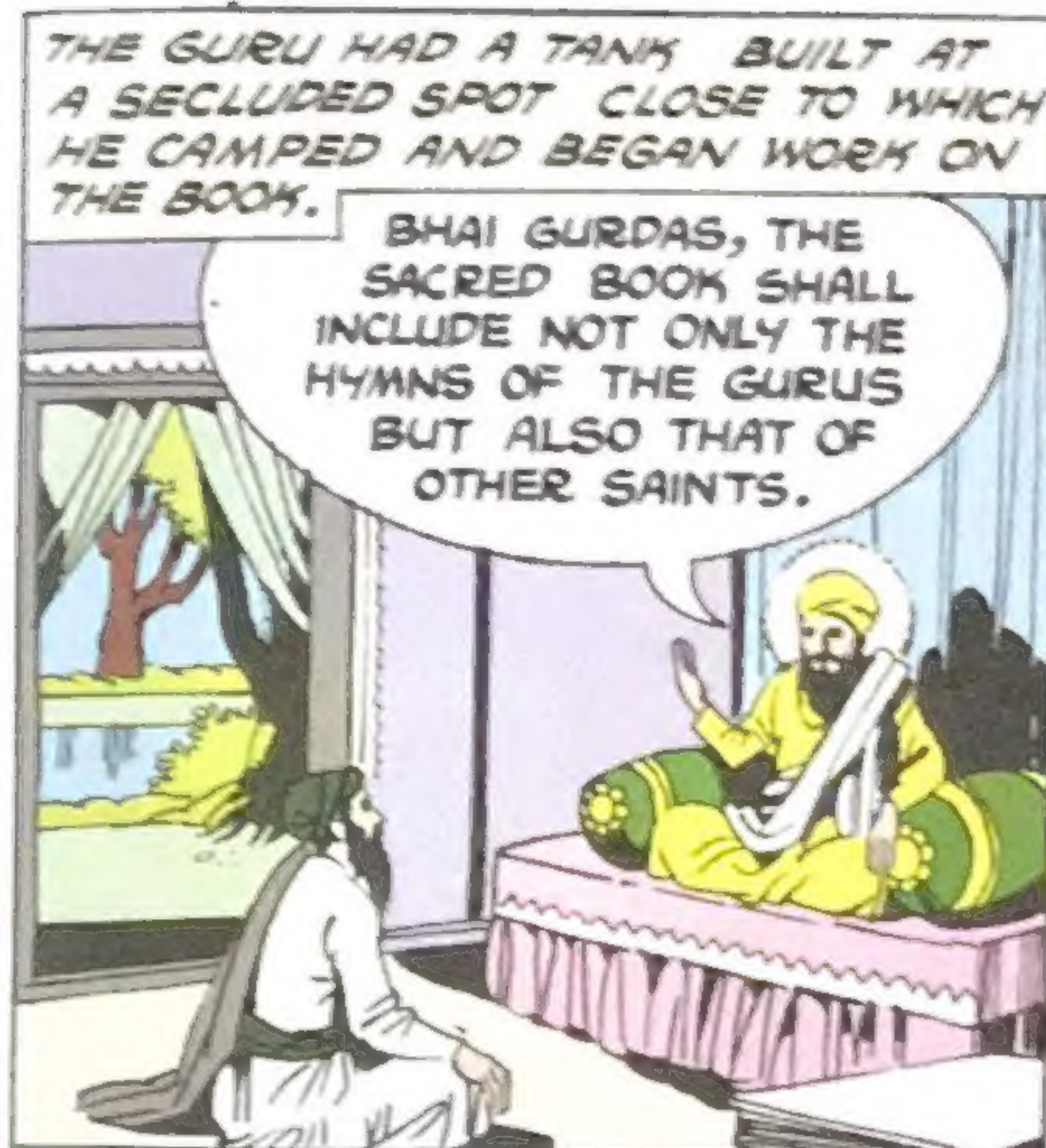
I WANT
NANAK'S HYMNS.
COULD YOU
GIVE ME THE
ORIGINALS YOU
HAVE?



YOU SHALL HAVE THEM.
FOR NOW I'M SURE
THEY WILL BE IN THE
RIGHT HANDS. MAY
GOD BLESS
YOU.

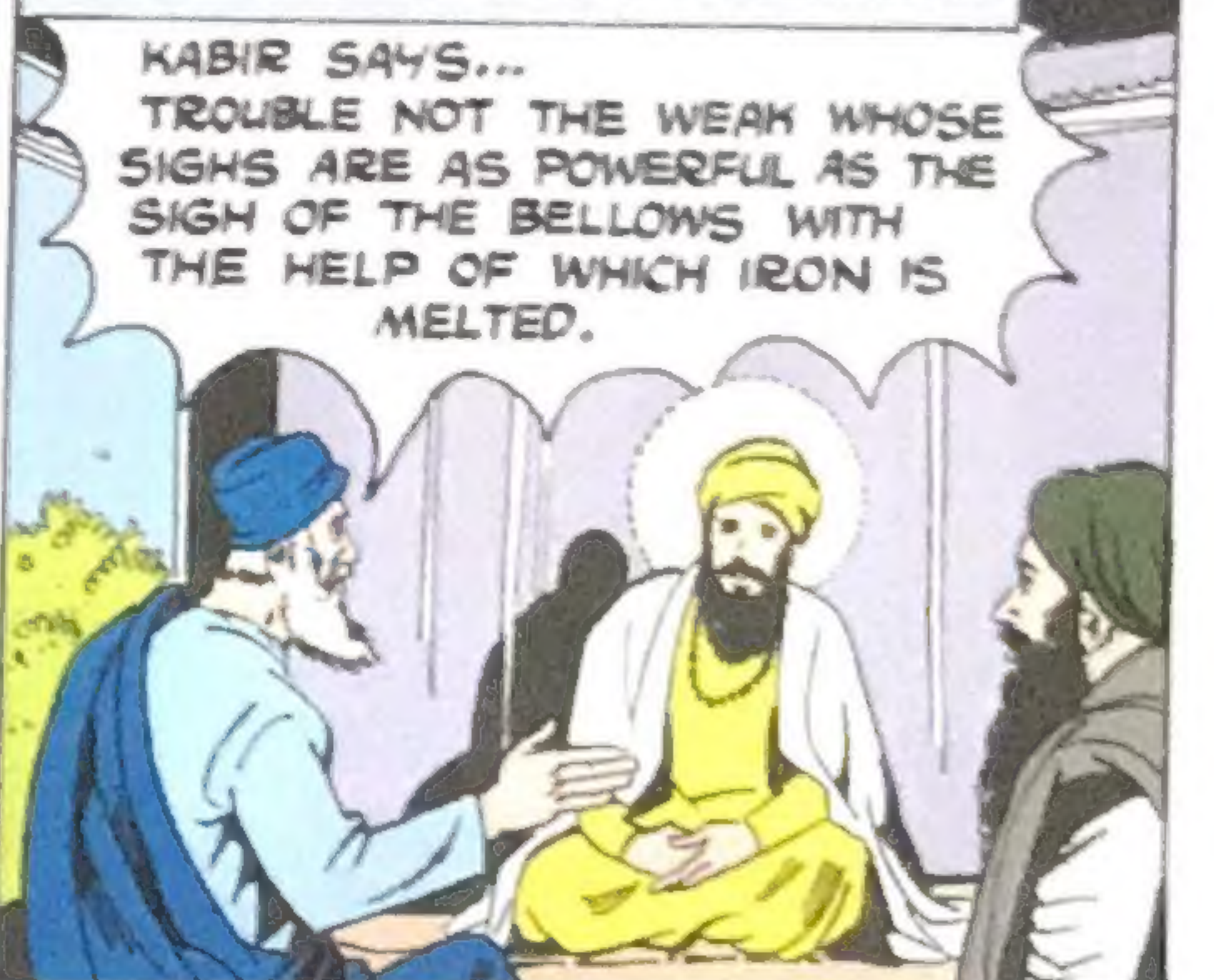
WE ARE
GRATEFUL TO
YOU, O NOBLE
ONE.

THE GURU HAD A TANK BUILT AT
A SECLUDED SPOT CLOSE TO WHICH
HE CAMPED AND BEGAN WORK ON
THE BOOK.



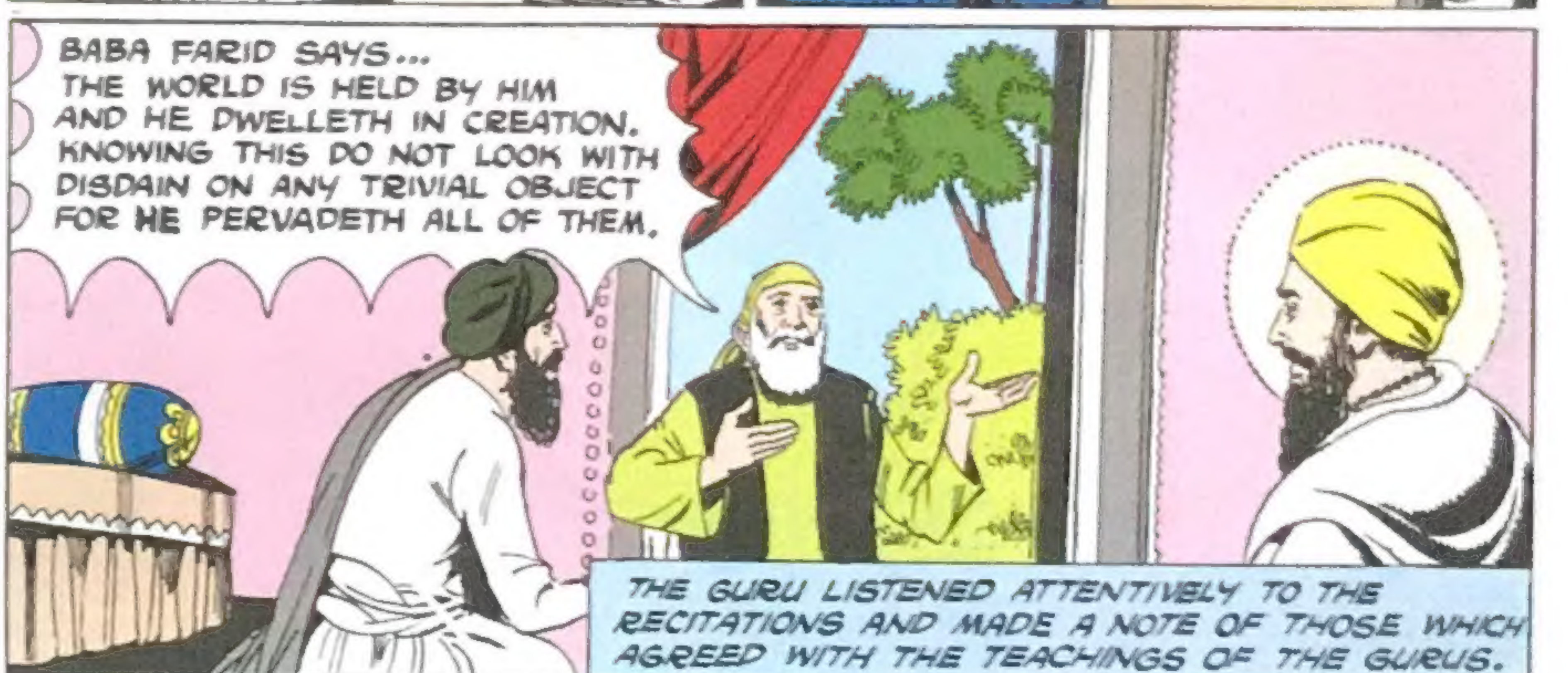
BHAI GURDAS, THE
SACRED BOOK SHALL
INCLUDE NOT ONLY THE
HYMNS OF THE GURUS
BUT ALSO THAT OF
OTHER SAINTS.

AT THE INVITATION OF THE GURU, FOLLOWERS
OF DIFFERENT SECTS, BOTH HINDU AND
MUSLIM, CAME TO RAMSAR AND RECITED
THE HYMNS OF THEIR TEACHERS.



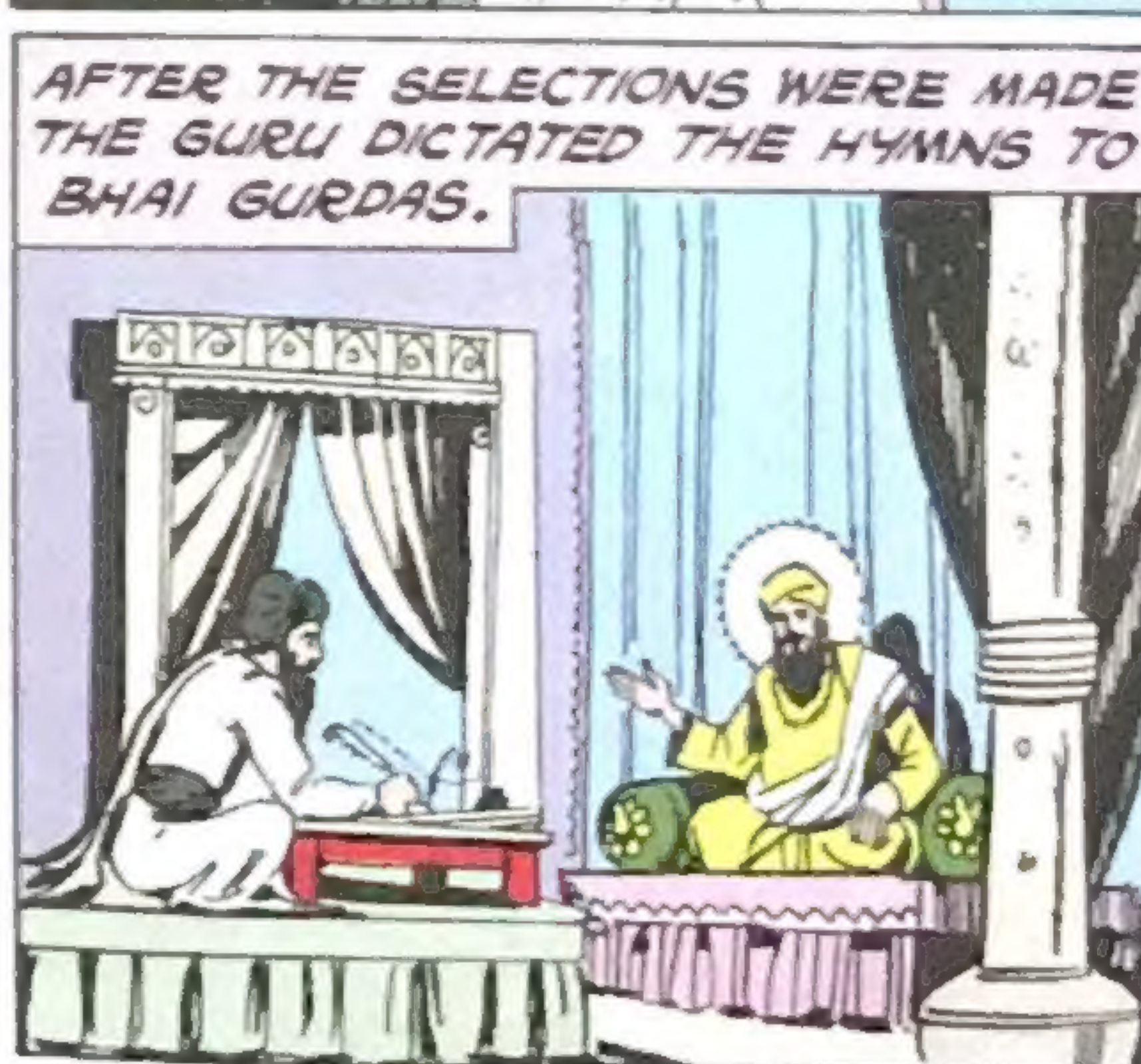
KABIR SAYS...
TROUBLE NOT THE WEAK WHOSE
SIGHS ARE AS POWERFUL AS THE
SIGH OF THE BELLOWS WITH
THE HELP OF WHICH IRON IS
MELTED.

BABA FARID SAYS...
THE WORLD IS HELD BY HIM
AND HE DWELLETH IN CREATION.
KNOWING THIS DO NOT LOOK WITH
DISDAIN ON ANY TRIVIAL OBJECT
FOR HE PERVADETH ALL OF THEM.



THE GURU LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO THE
RECITATIONS AND MADE A NOTE OF THOSE WHICH
AGREED WITH THE TEACHINGS OF THE GURUS.

AFTER THE SELECTIONS WERE MADE
THE GURU DICTATED THE HYMNS TO
BHAI GURDAS.



THE GURU CALLED THE COMPILATION
GRANTH SAHIB AND INSTALLED IT AT
THE HAR MANDIR.



THE GRANTH SAHIB
IS THE EMBODIMENT
OF THE GURU. IT
SHOULD BE HELD IN
HIGH REVERENCE.

THE GURU NOMINATED BHAI BUDDHA,
THE VENERABLE SIKH, AS THE
CUSTODIAN OF THE GRANTH SAHIB.

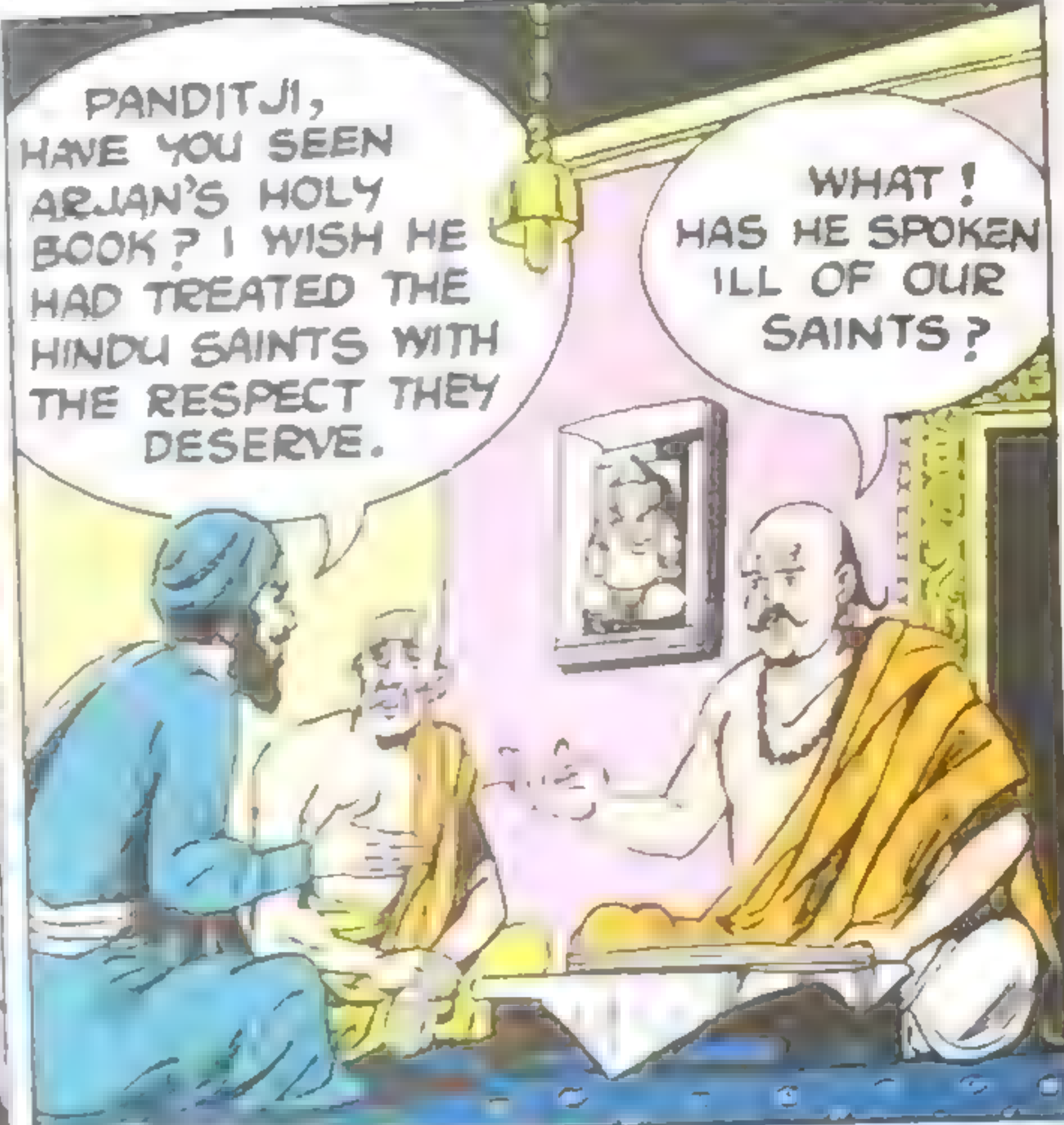
THE GRANTH SAHB GAVE PRITHICHAND THE OPPORTUNITY HE WAS WAITING FOR.

MAULVI SAHIB, THAT WRETCH WHOM I'M ASHAMED TO OWN AS A BROTHER HAS MADE FUN OF MUSLIM SAINTS IN HIS GRANTH SAHIB.

HE WILL PAY FOR THIS.

PANDITJI, HAVE YOU SEEN ARJAN'S HOLY BOOK? I WISH HE HAD TREATED THE HINDU SAINTS WITH THE RESPECT THEY DESERVE.

WHAT! HAS HE SPOKEN ILL OF OUR SAINTS?

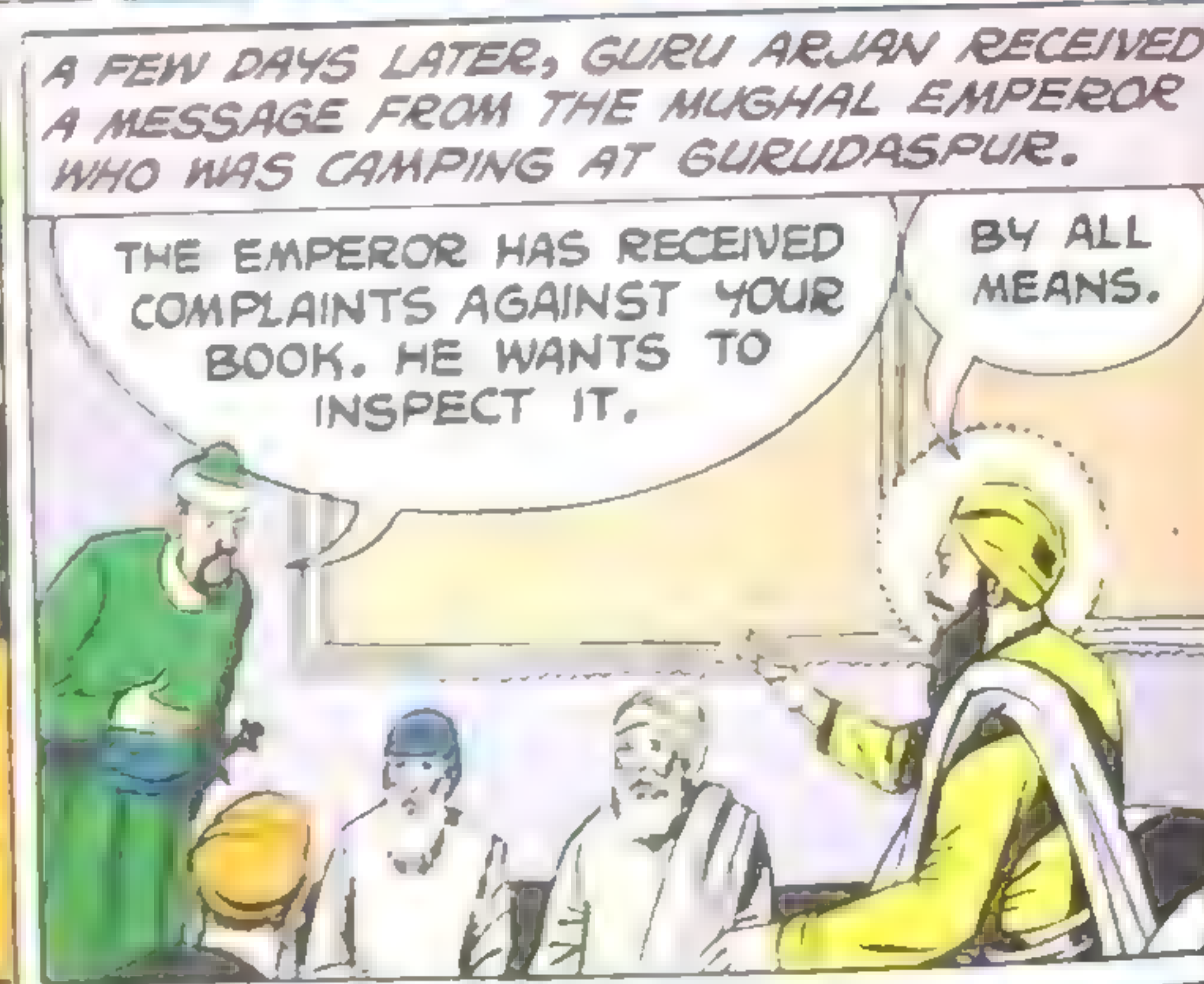


WE WILL COMPLAIN TO THE EMPEROR.

A FEW DAYS LATER, GURU ARJAN RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM THE MUGHAL EMPEROR WHO WAS CAMPING AT GURUDASPUR.

THE EMPEROR HAS RECEIVED COMPLAINTS AGAINST YOUR BOOK. HE WANTS TO INSPECT IT.

BY ALL MEANS.

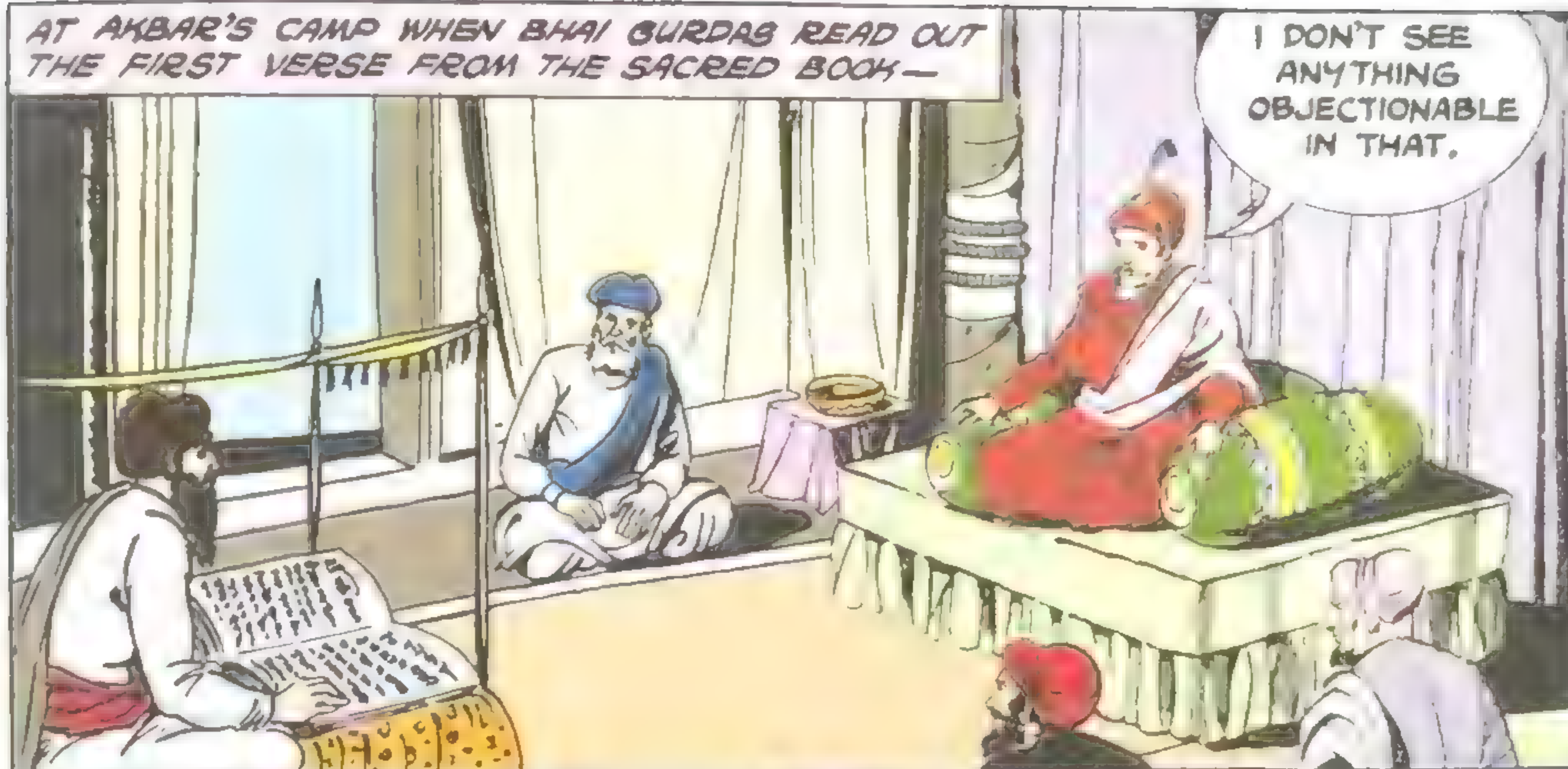


BHAI GURDAS, PLEASE TAKE IT TO THE EMPEROR.



AT AKBAR'S CAMP WHEN BHAI GURDAS READ OUT THE FIRST VERSE FROM THE SACRED BOOK—

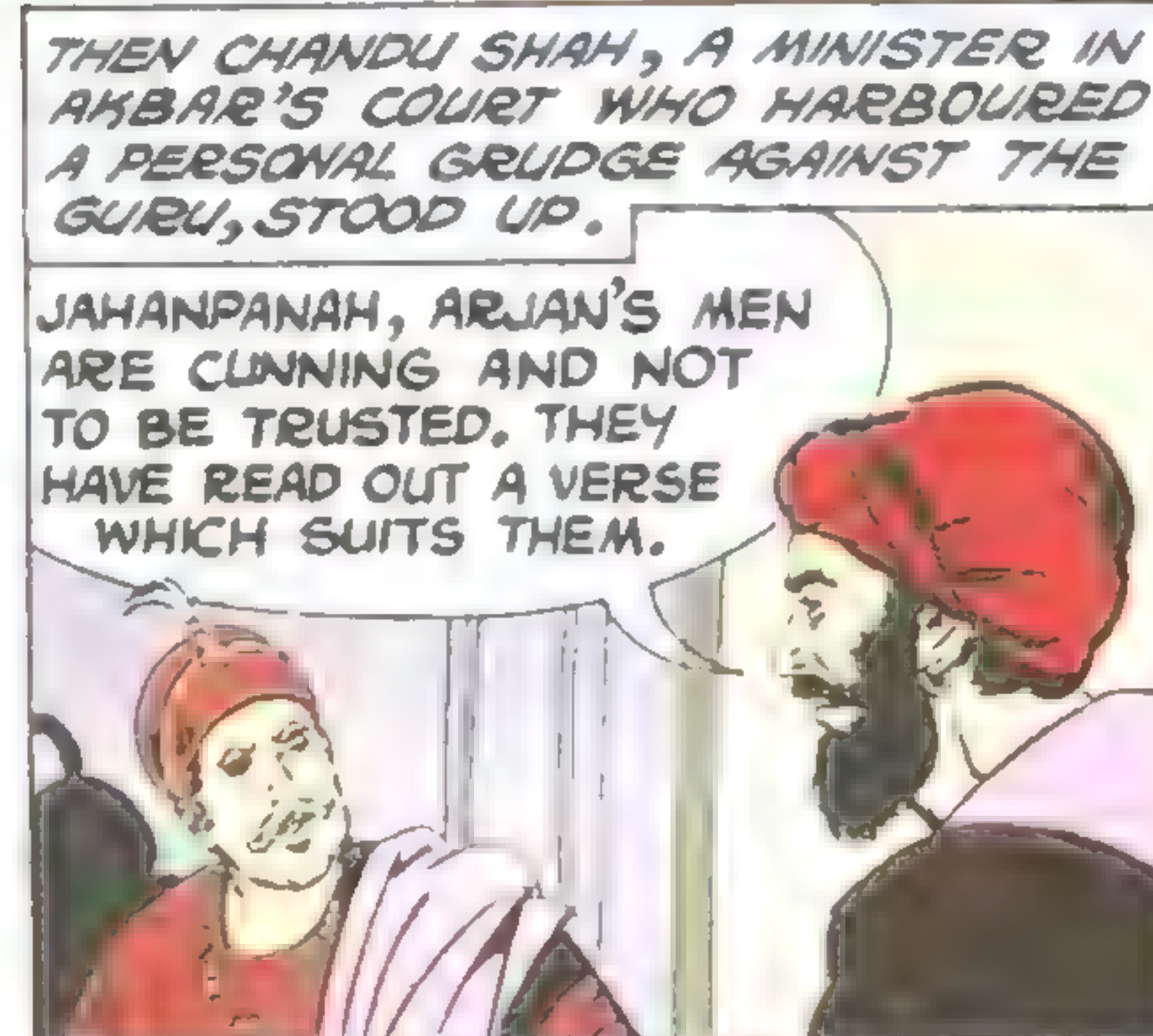
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING OBJECTIONABLE IN THAT.



THEN CHANDU SHAH, A MINISTER IN AKBAR'S COURT WHO HARBOURED A PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST THE GURU, STOOD UP.

JAHANPANAH, ARJAN'S MEN ARE CUNNING AND NOT TO BE TRUSTED. THEY HAVE READ OUT A VERSE WHICH SUITS THEM.

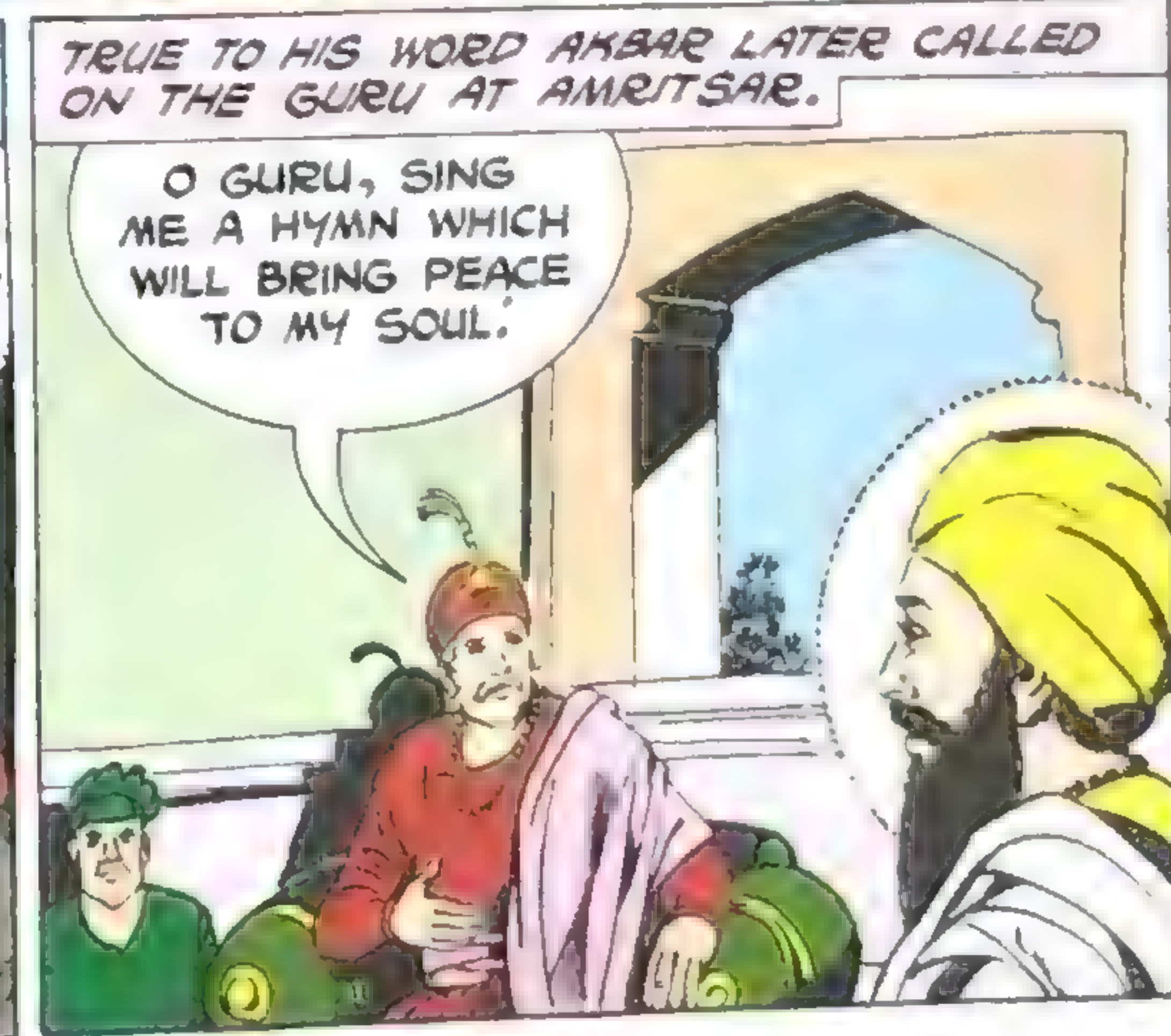
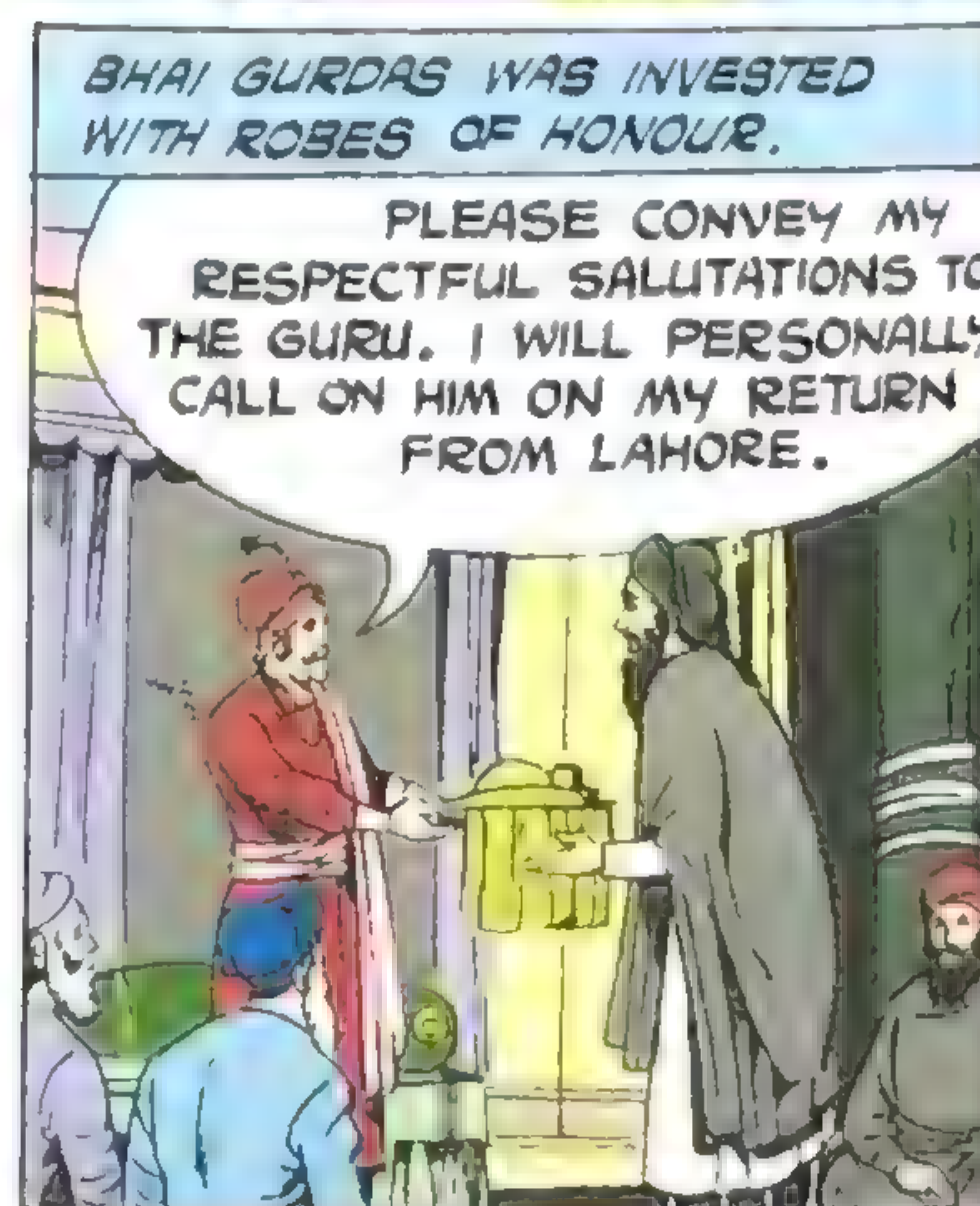
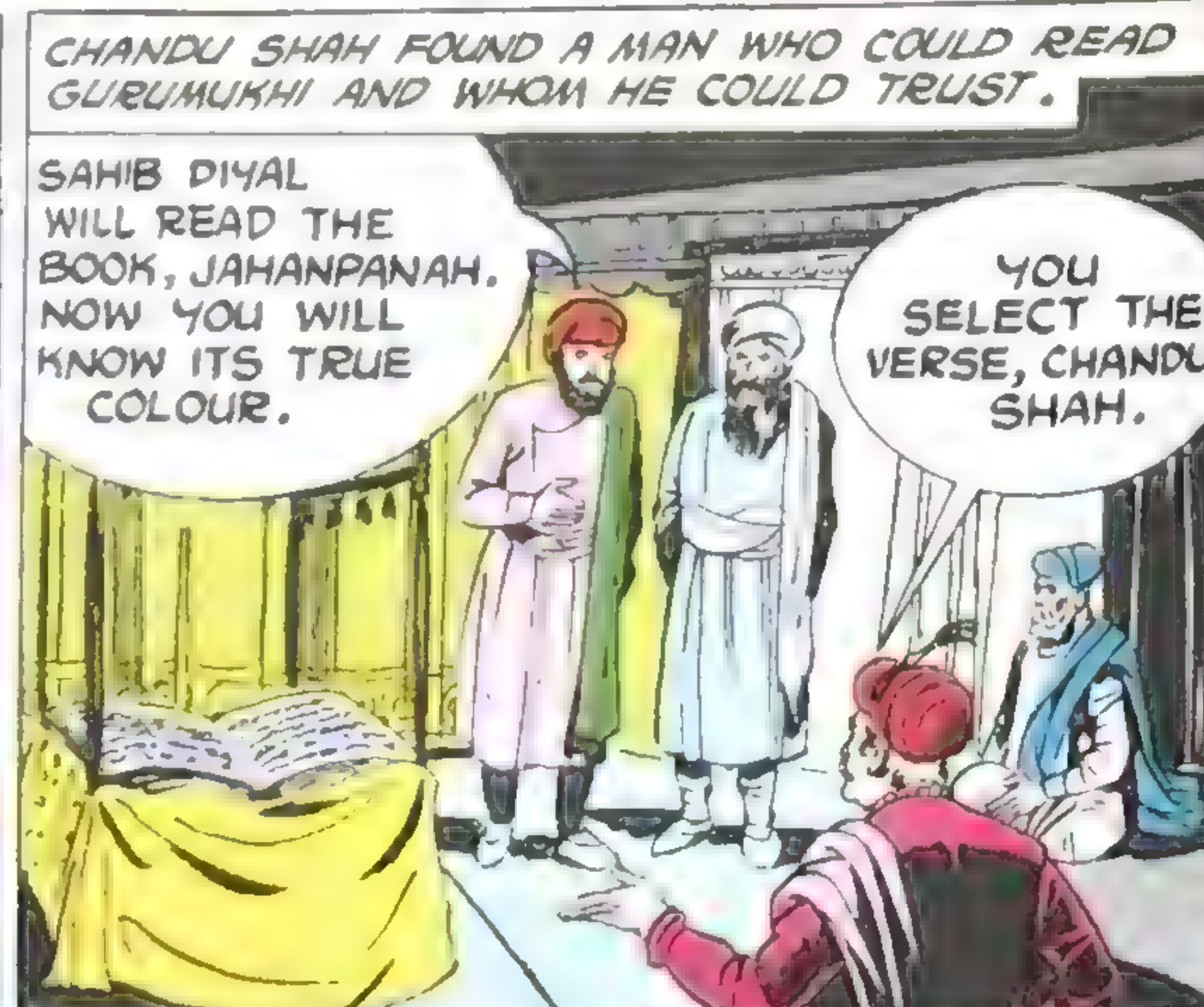
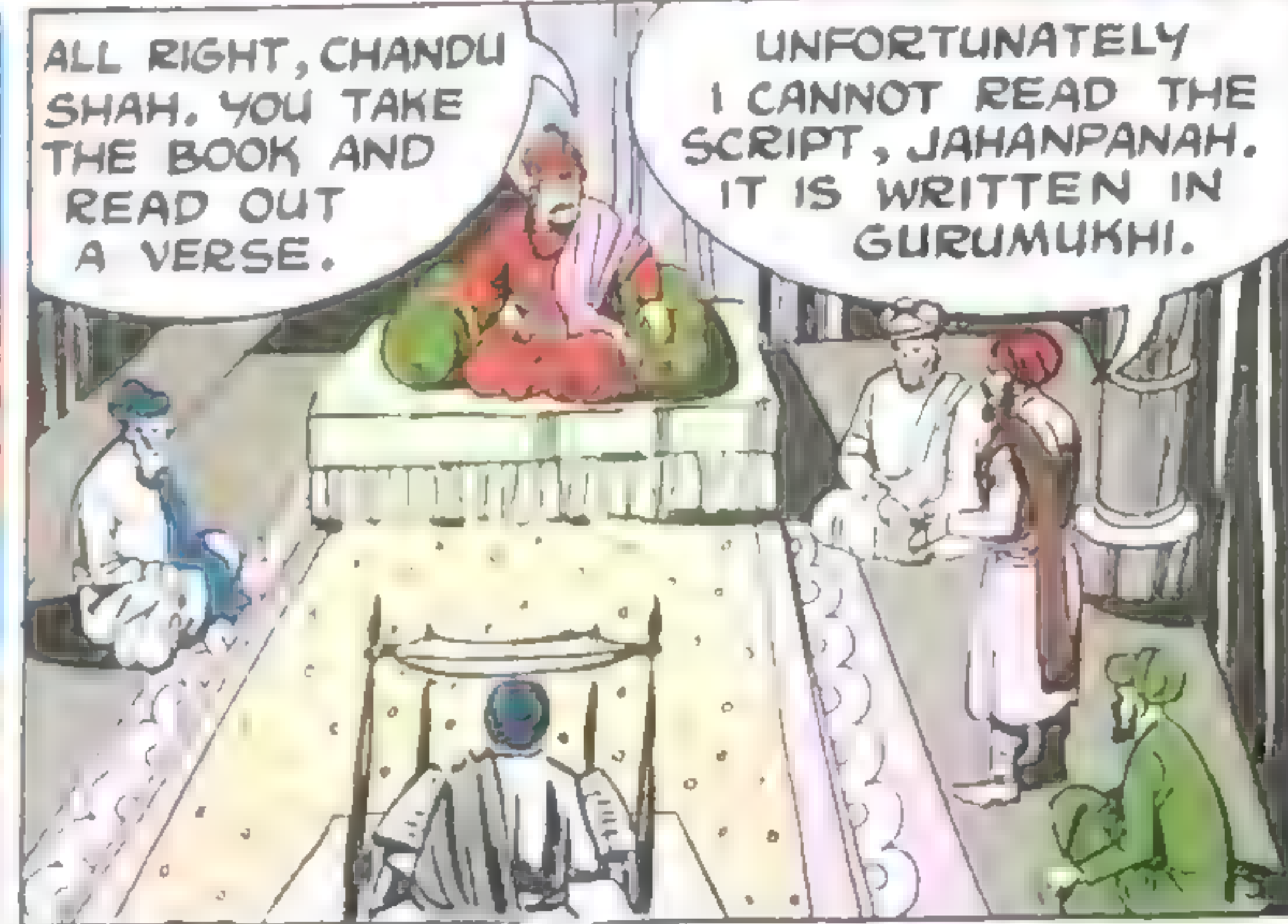
PLEASE TURN THE PAGES...

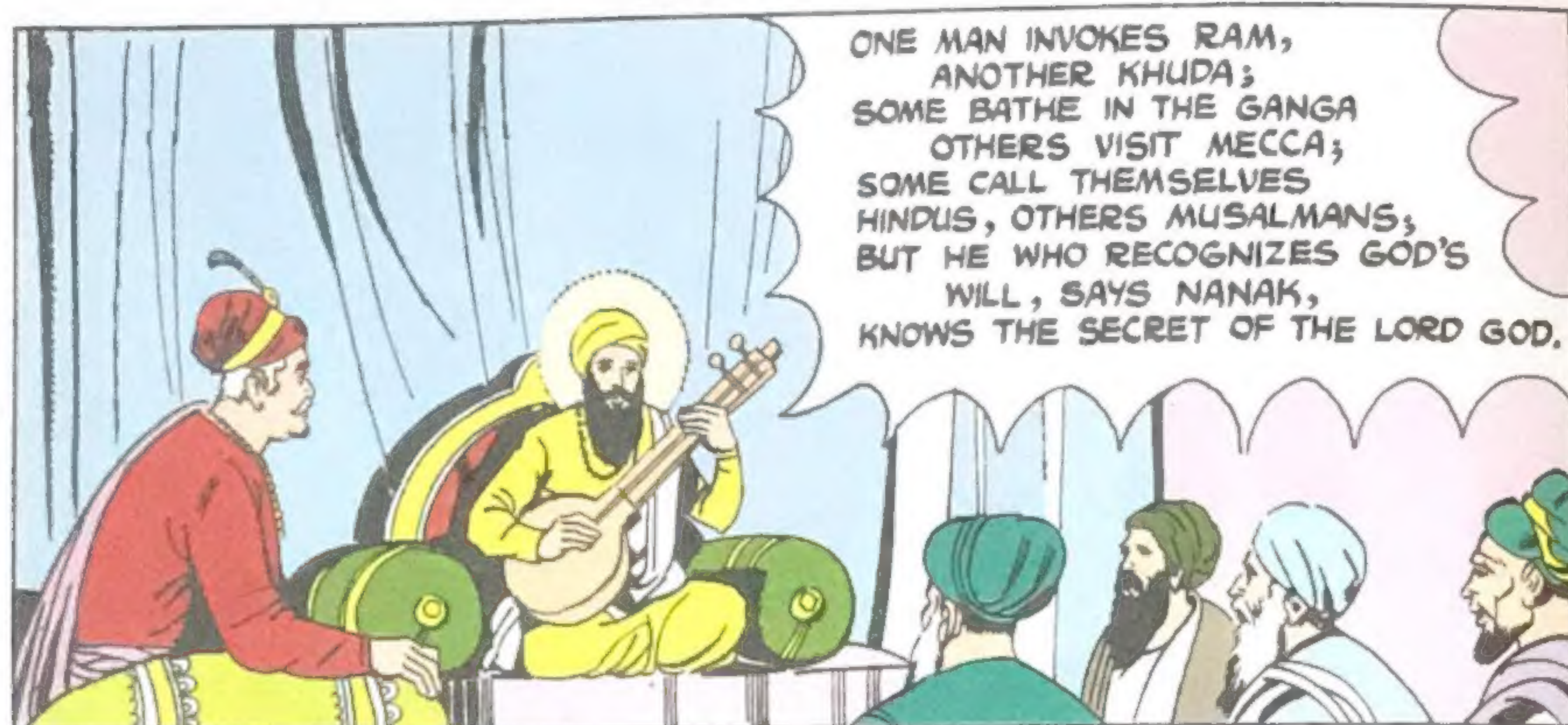


...TILL I ASK YOU TO STOP.

STOP! READ A VERSE FROM THAT PAGE.







AS A RESULT OF AKBAR'S VISIT, THE
GURU'S FAME ONLY INCREASED.

OUR BRICKBATS TURN
INTO BOUQUETS WHEN
THEY REACH ARJAN. WHAT
SHOULD WE DO NEXT,
PRITHICHAND?

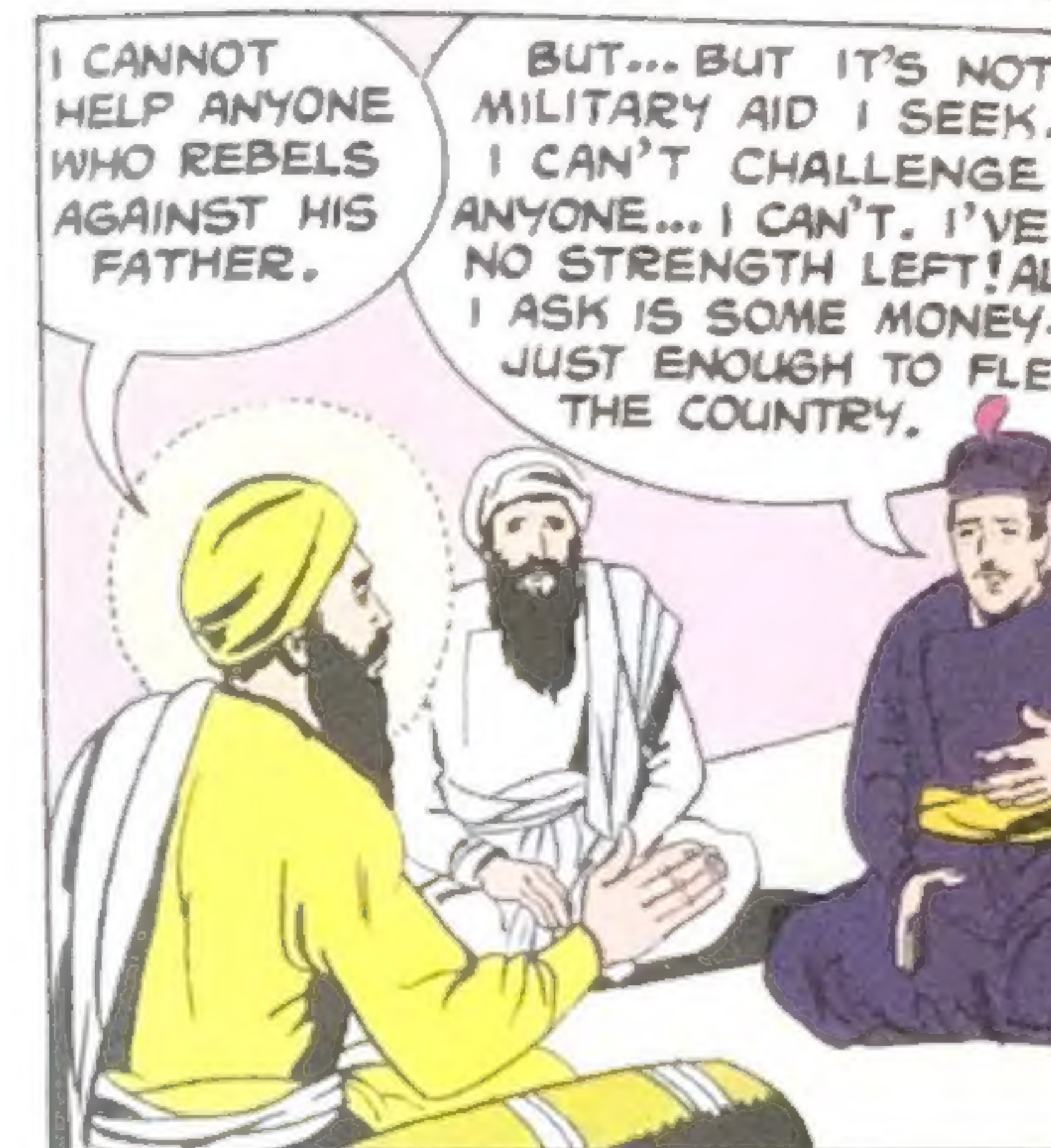
JUST LIE
LOW FOR
A WHILE.

A FEW MONTHS LATER, EMPEROR AKBAR DIED.
AND WHEN HIS SON JAHANGIR SUCCEEDED
HIM, PRITHICHAND AND CHANDU SHAH FOUND
THEIR OPPORTUNITY.

WE CAN WORK ON JAHANGIR. I HEARD
HE'LL SOON BE ARRIVING HERE IN
PURSUIT OF HIS REBELLIOUS
SON, KHUSRO.

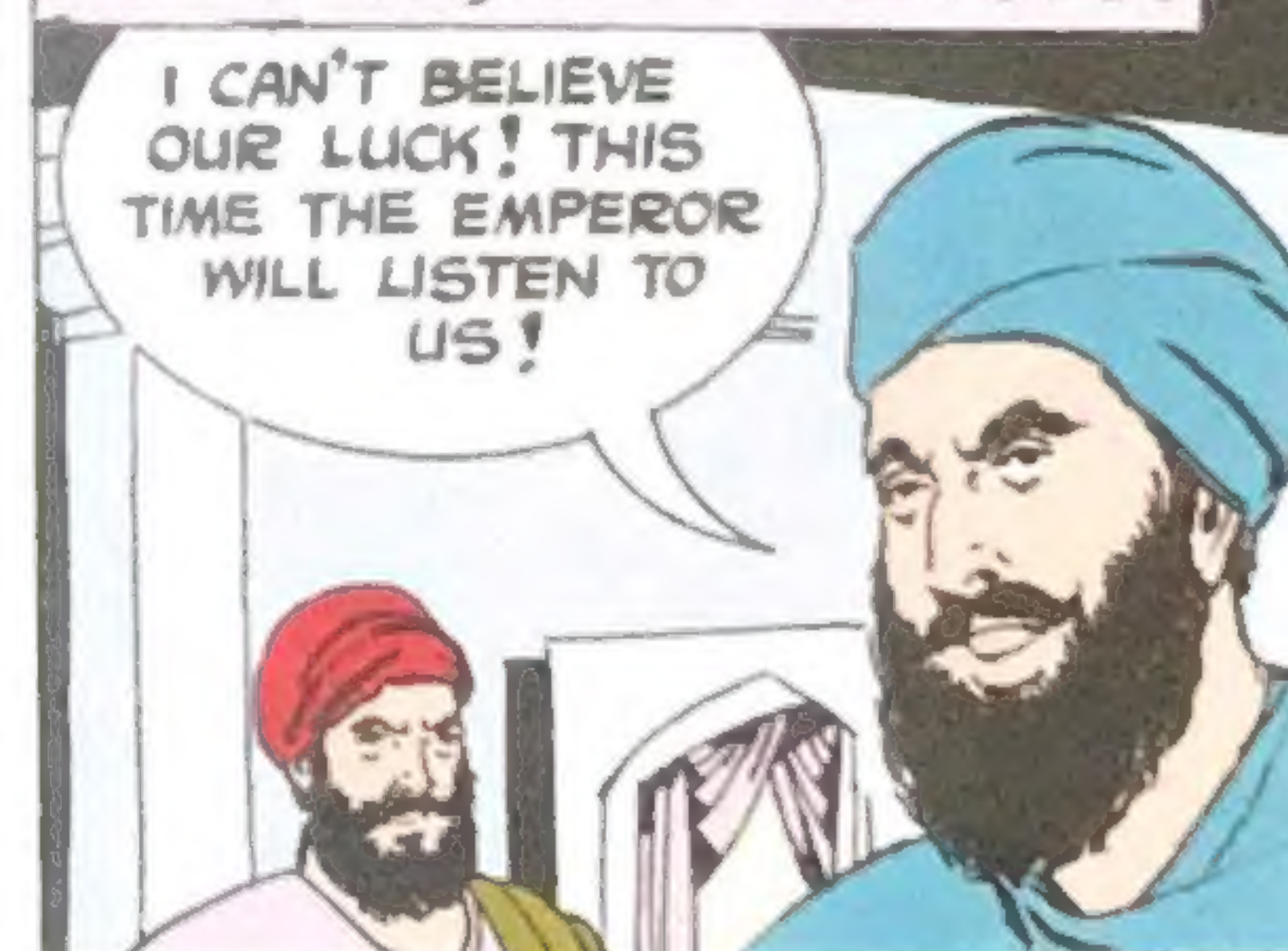
SOMETIME LATER, WHEN THE UNFORTUNATE PRINCE KHUSRO
ARRIVED IN THE PUNJAB, HE SOUGHT HELP FROM THE ONLY
PERSON WHO, HE KNEW, WOULD HELP HIM.

GURU,
PLEASE HELP
ME! I HAVE
NO ONE TO
TURN TO!



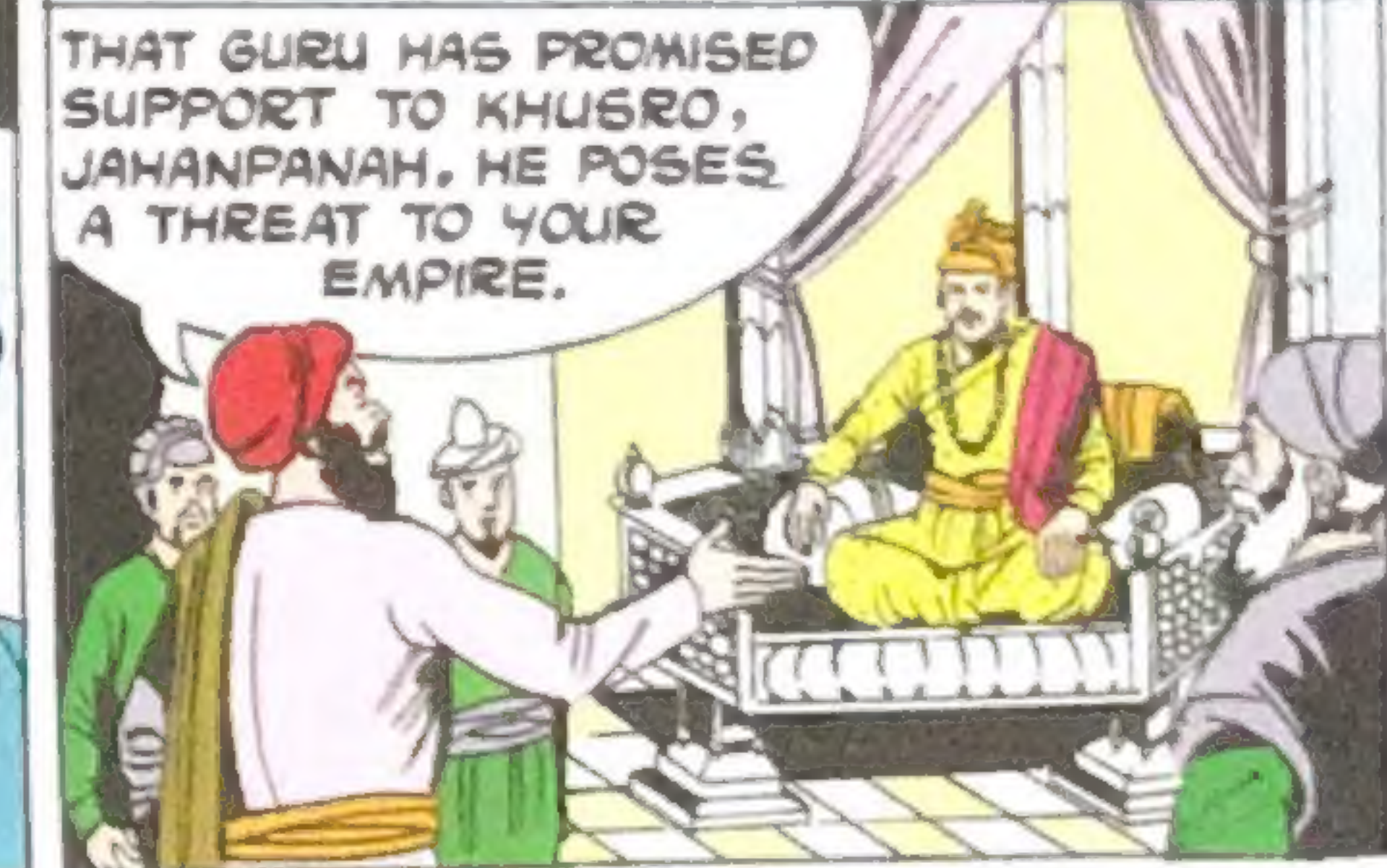
GURU ARJAN FINALLY AGREED TO
HELP HIM. WHEN THIS NEWS REACHED
PRITHICHAND, HE WAS OVERJOYED.

I CAN'T BELIEVE
OUR LUCK! THIS
TIME THE EMPEROR
WILL LISTEN TO
US!



PRITHI'S ALLY, CHANDU SHAH, TOOK THE
FIRST OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE TO POISON
JAHANGIR'S MIND AGAINST THE GURU.

THAT GURU HAS PROMISED
SUPPORT TO KHUSRO,
JAHANPANAH. HE POSES
A THREAT TO YOUR
EMPIRE.



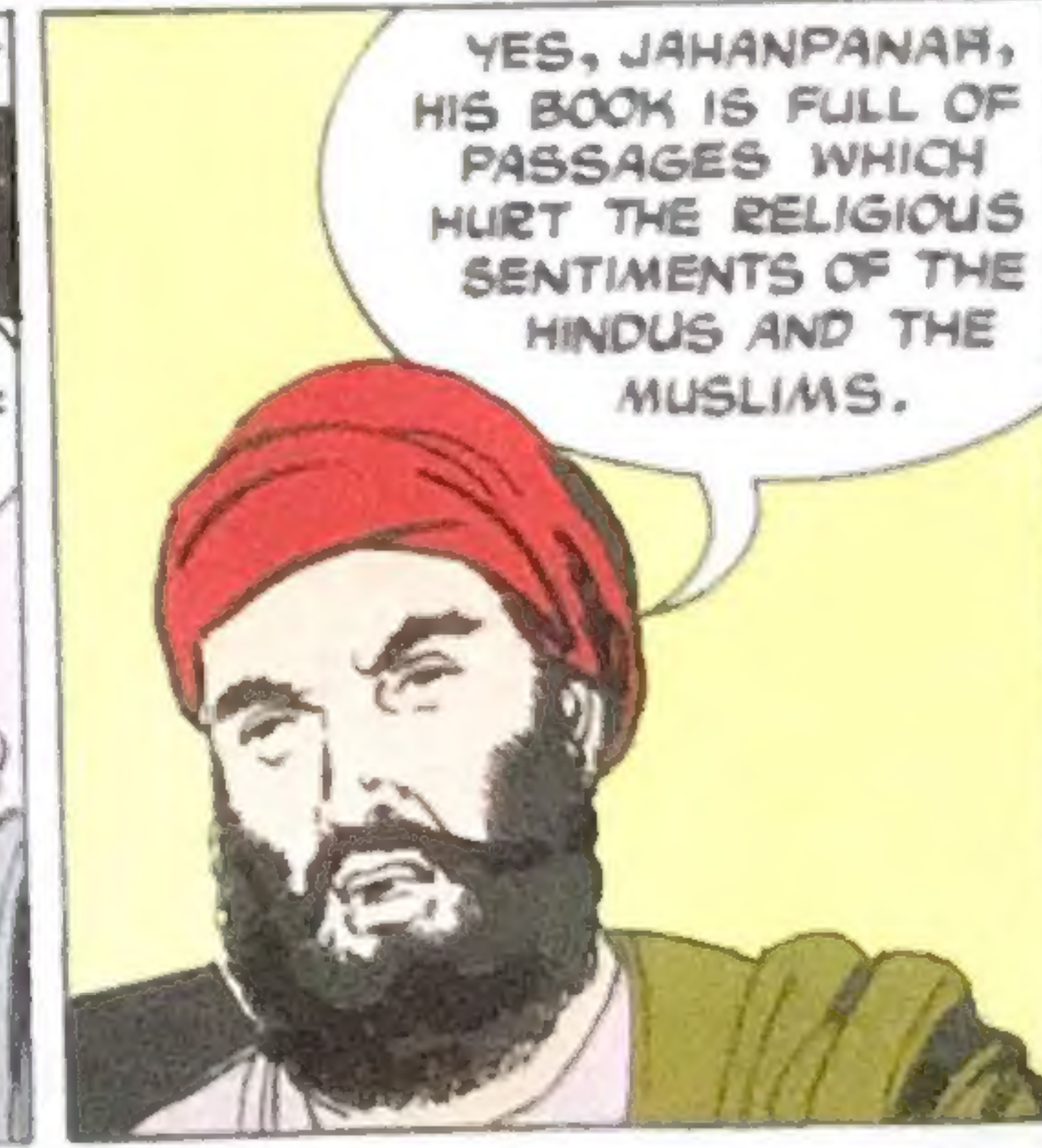
THE PANDITS AND THE MAULVIS REVIVED THE
OLD CHARGE AGAINST GURU ARJAN.

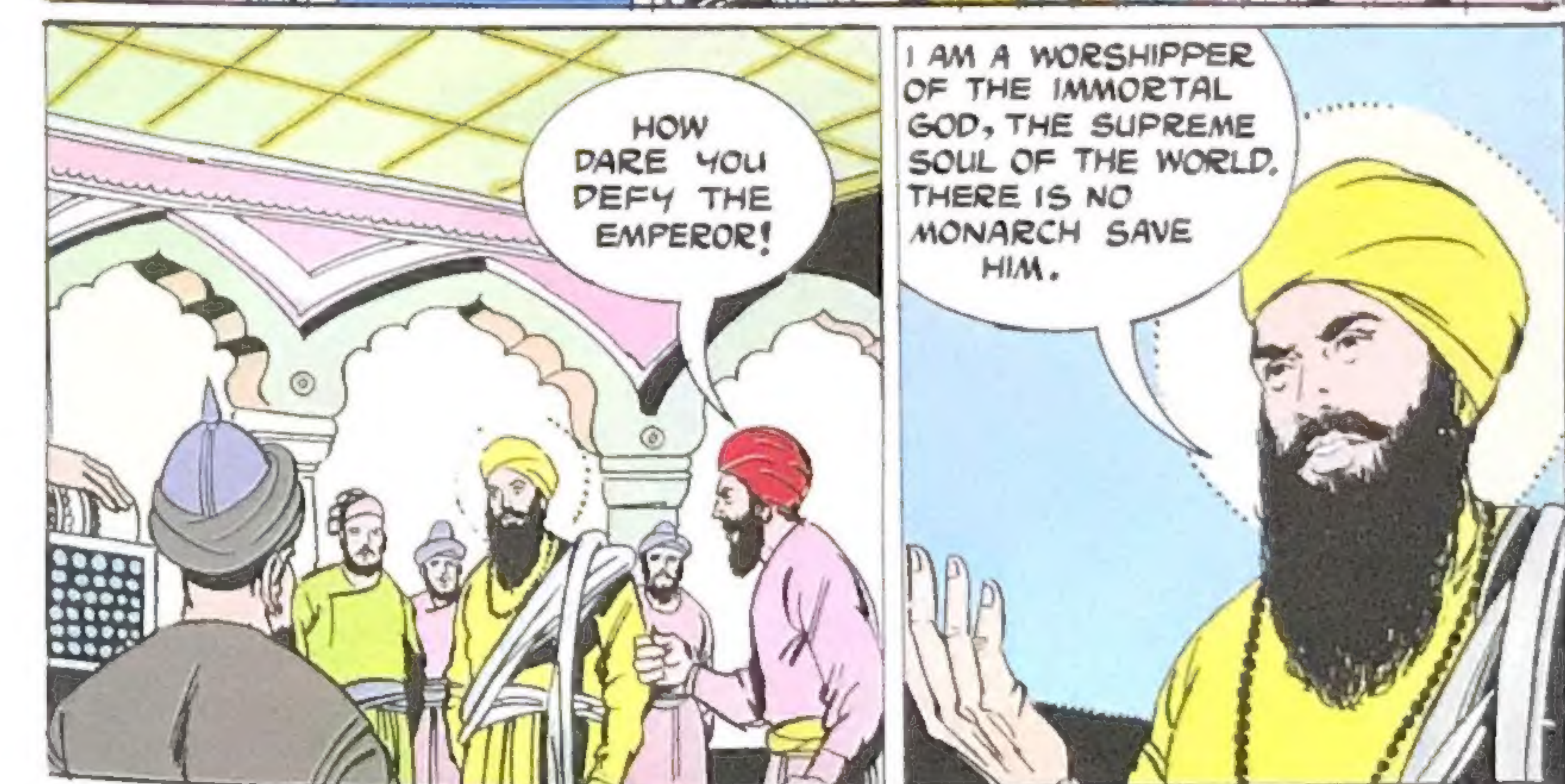
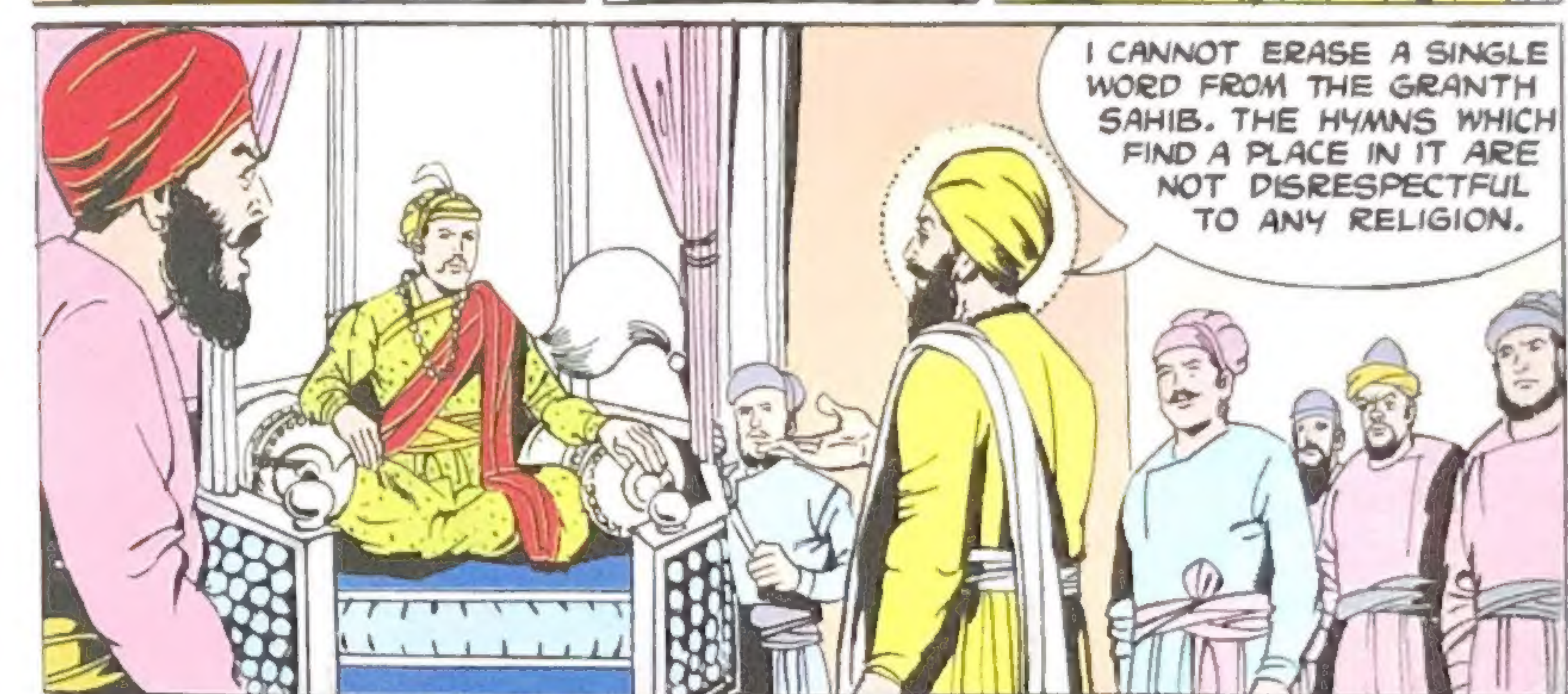
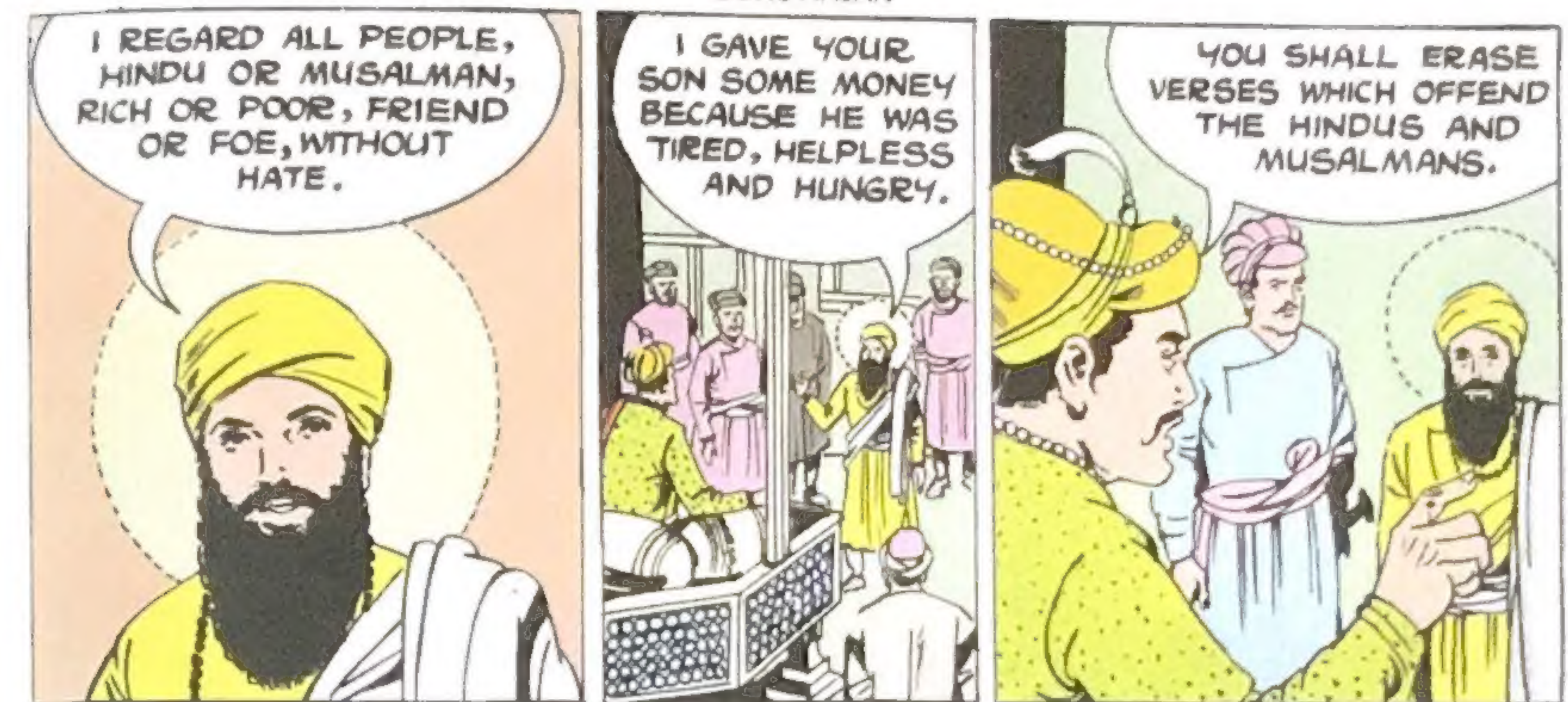
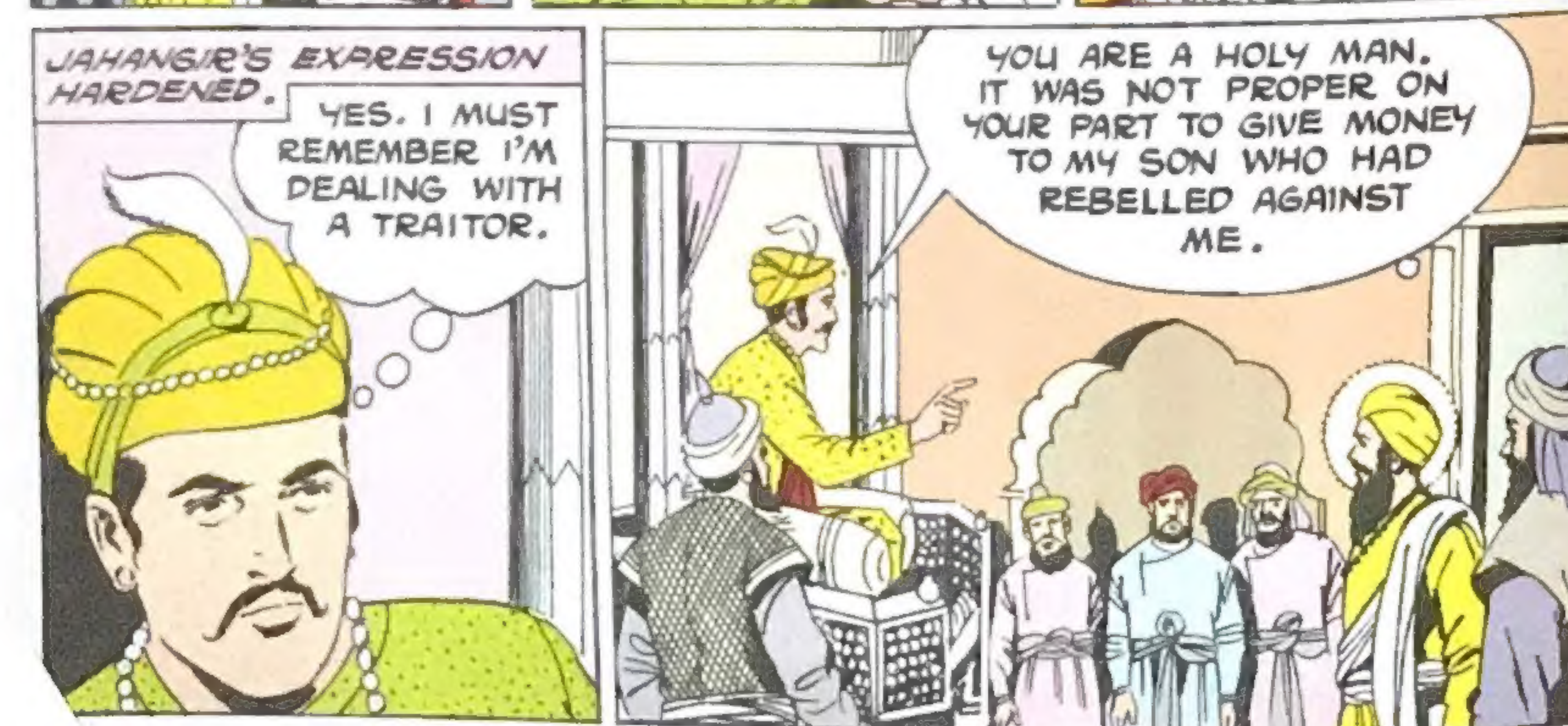
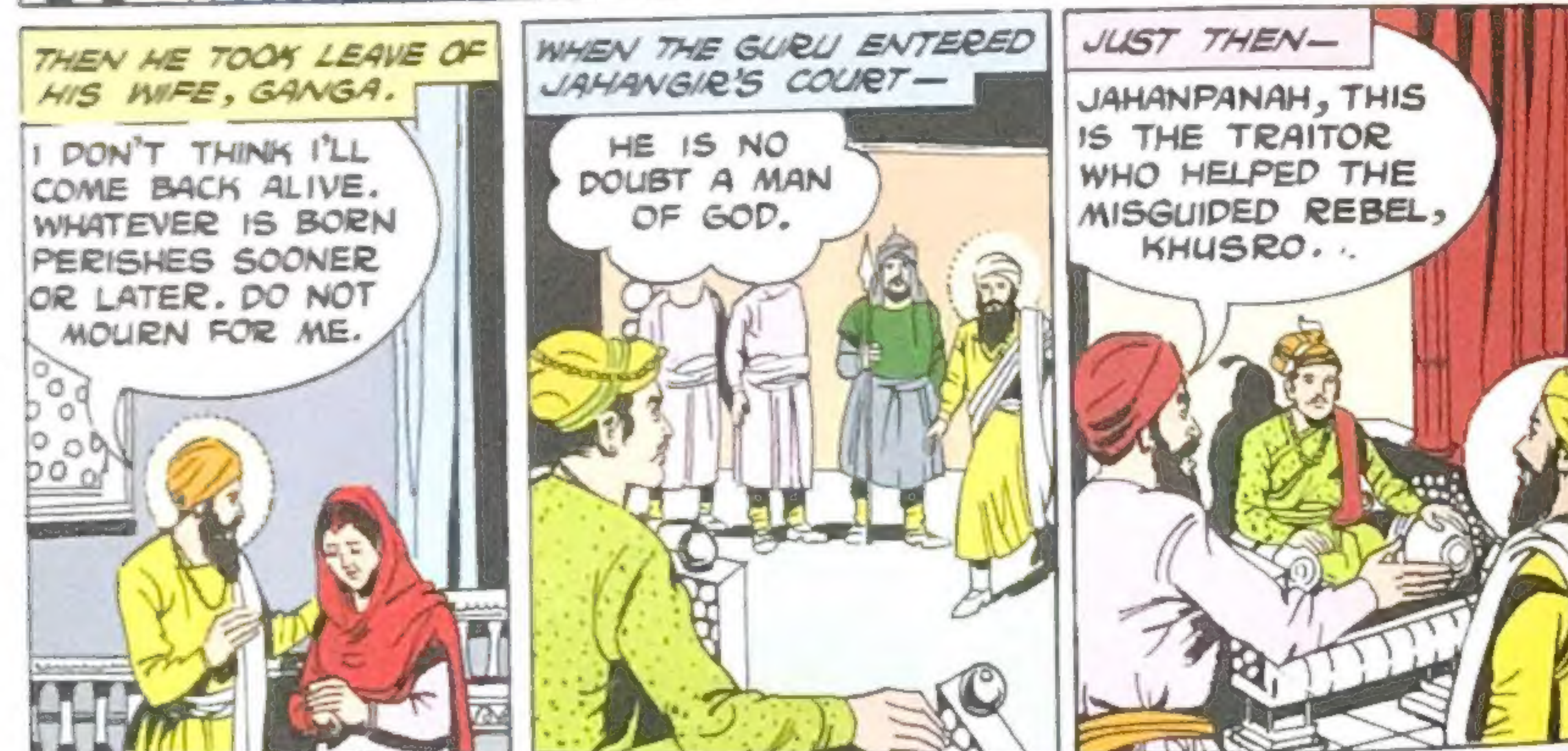
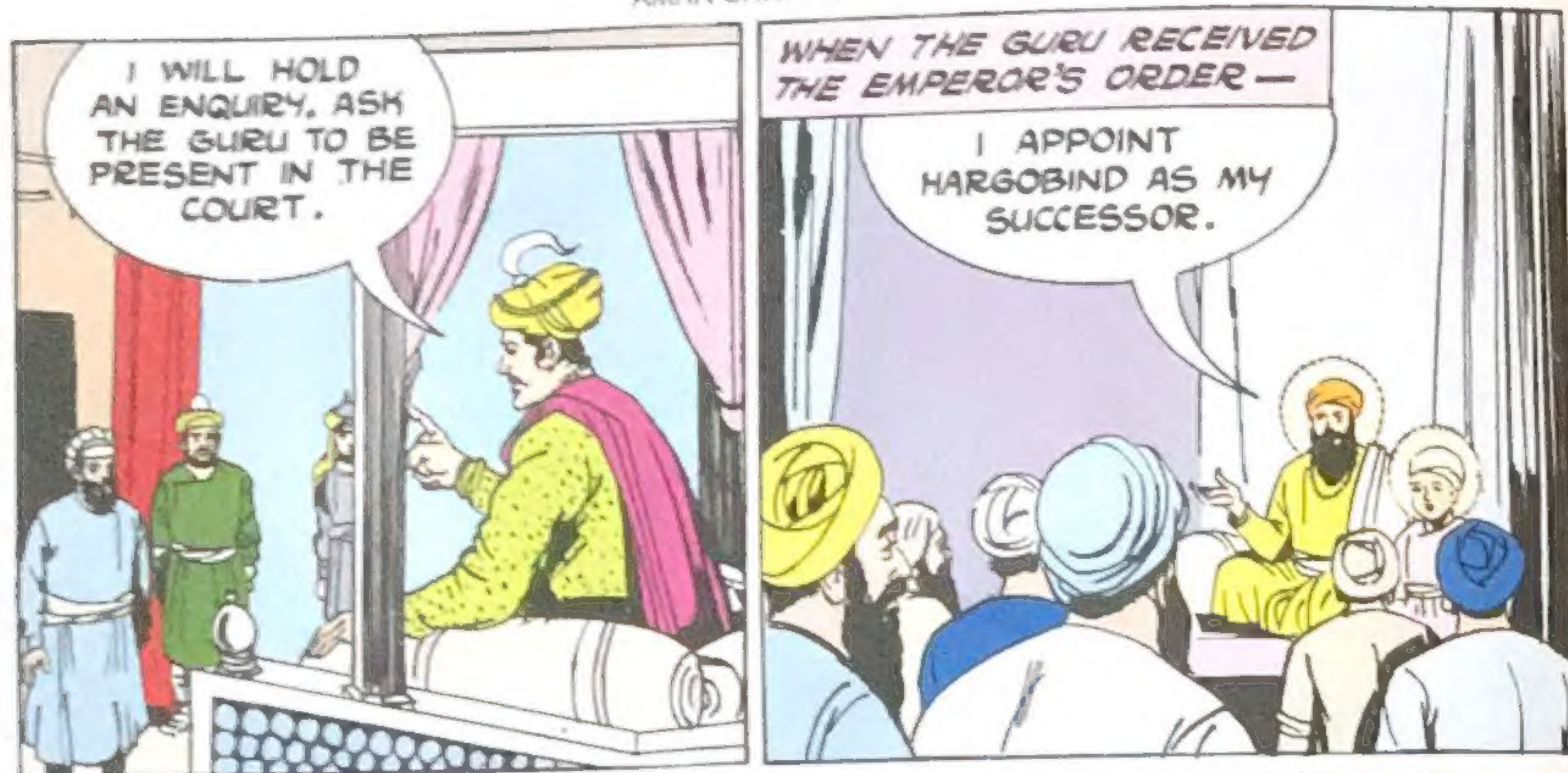
HE MAKES FUN OF
OUR PRAYERS AND
FASTINGS.

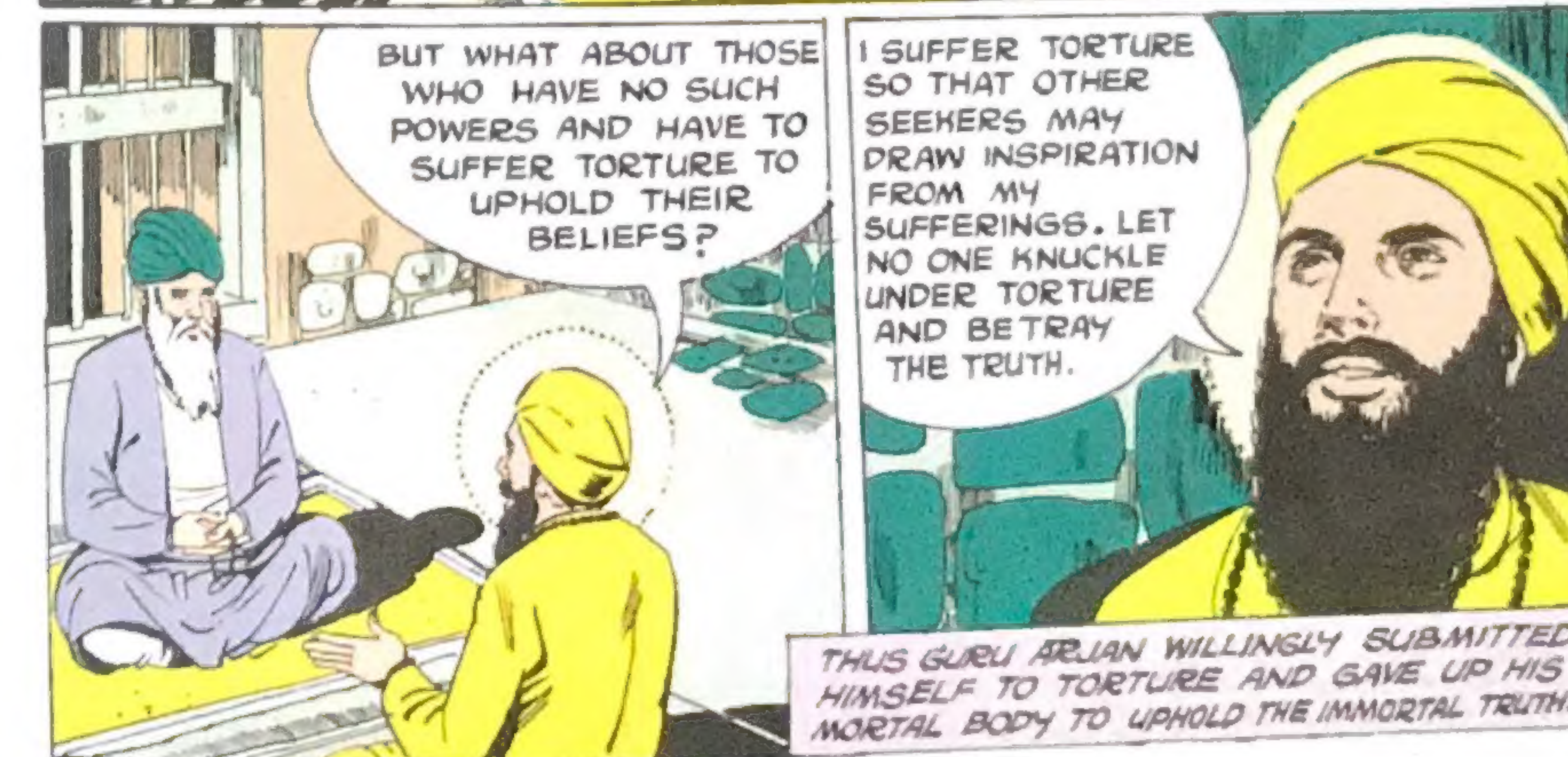
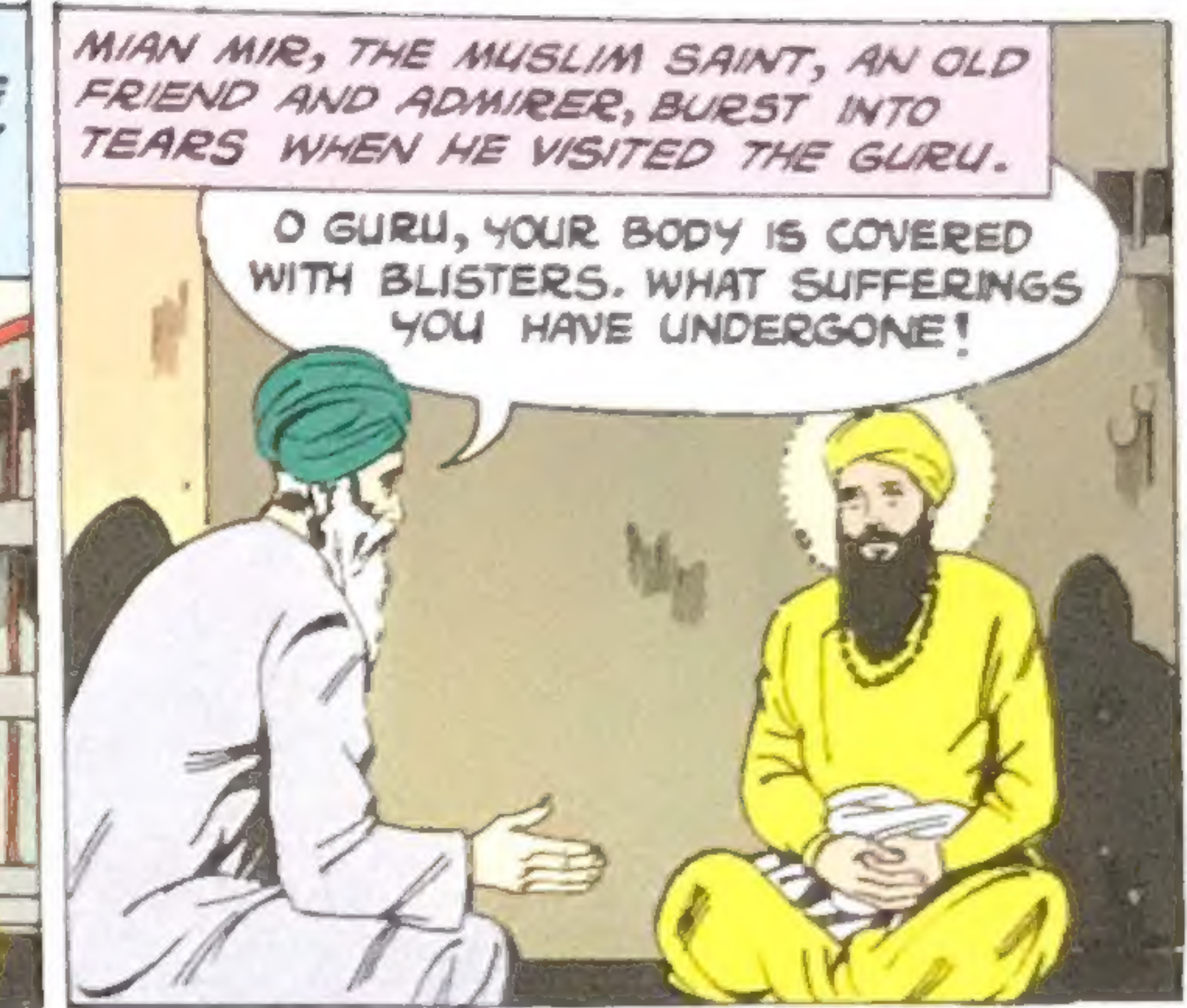
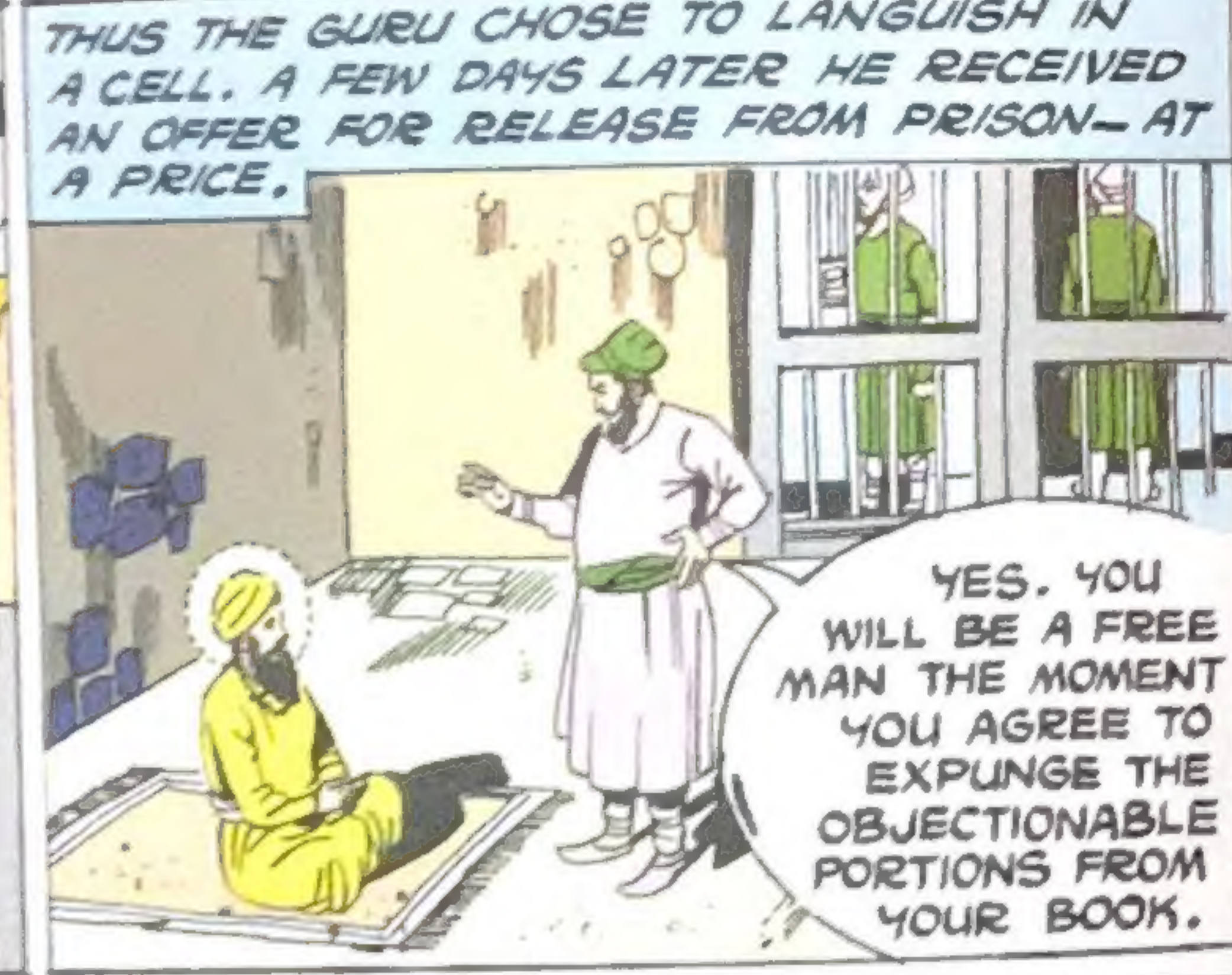
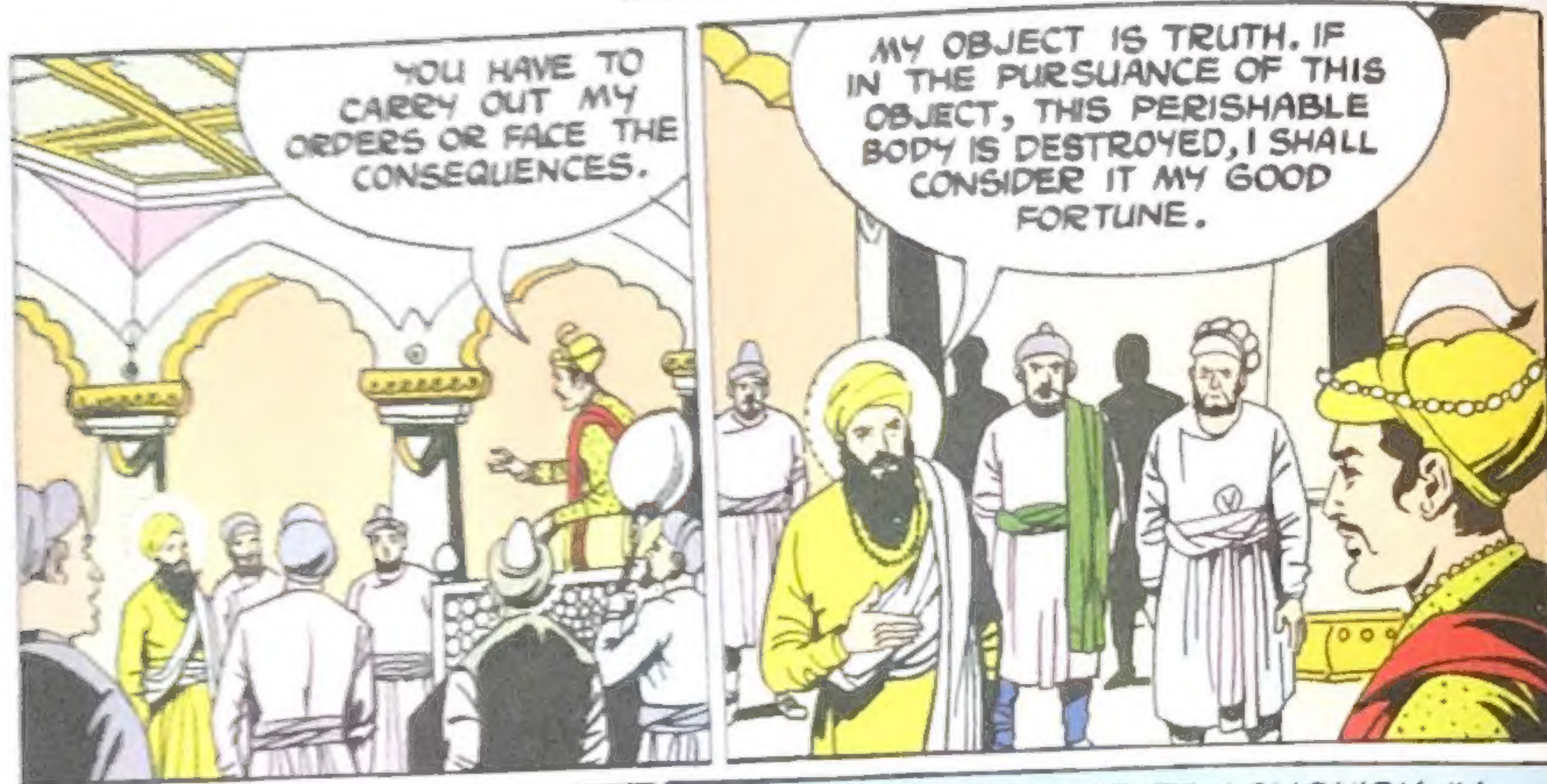
AND
OUR WAY OF
WORSHIP.



YES, JAHANPANAH,
HIS BOOK IS FULL OF
PASSAGES WHICH
HURT THE RELIGIOUS
SENTIMENTS OF THE
HINDUS AND THE
MUSLIMS.









Amritsar

Guru Ramdas, the fourth Guru, initiated the construction of the pool he called Amritsar – the pool of nectar.

However, the temple he built was destroyed several times by Afghan invaders.



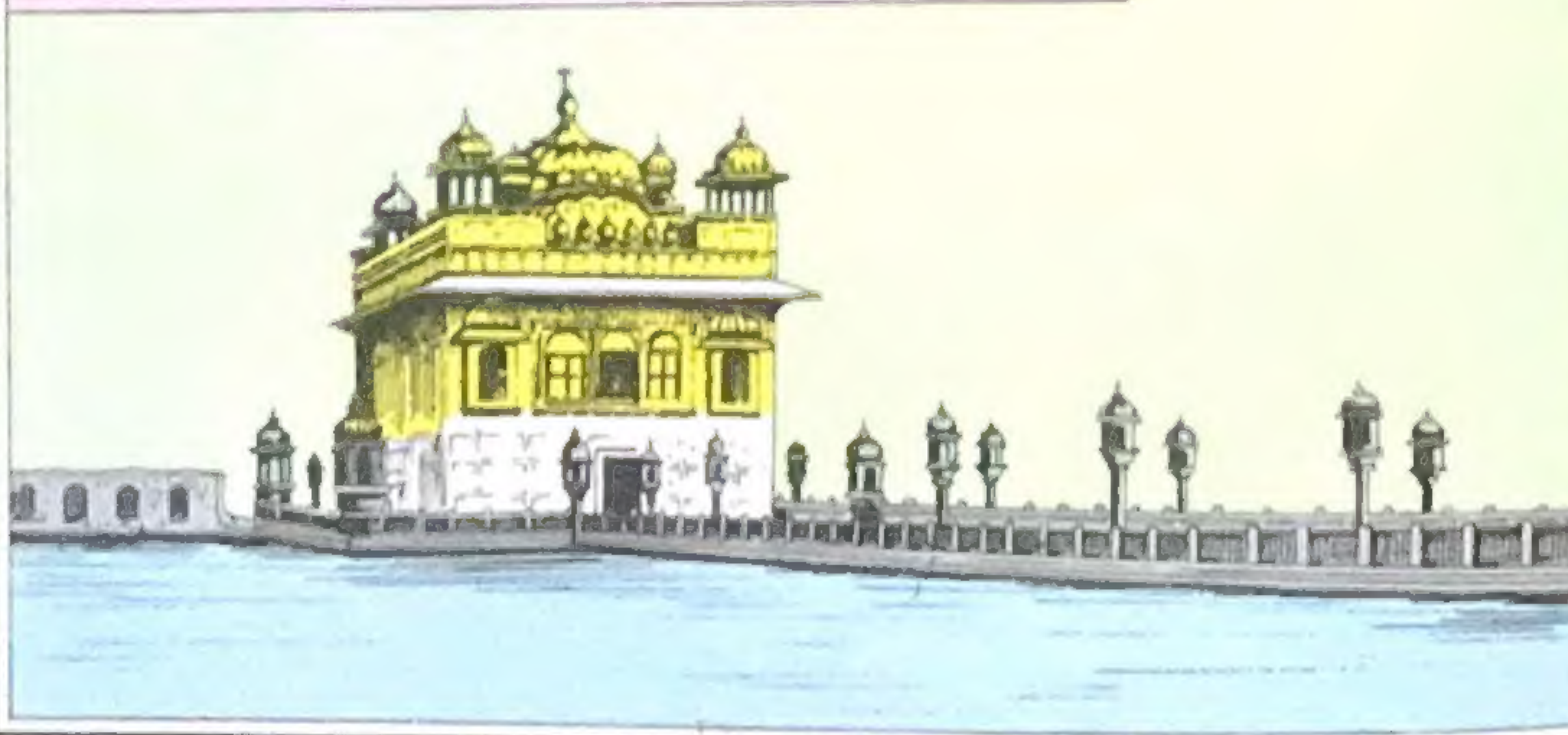
The temple as it stands today came into being in 1764. Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims contributed money for the renovation of the temple.



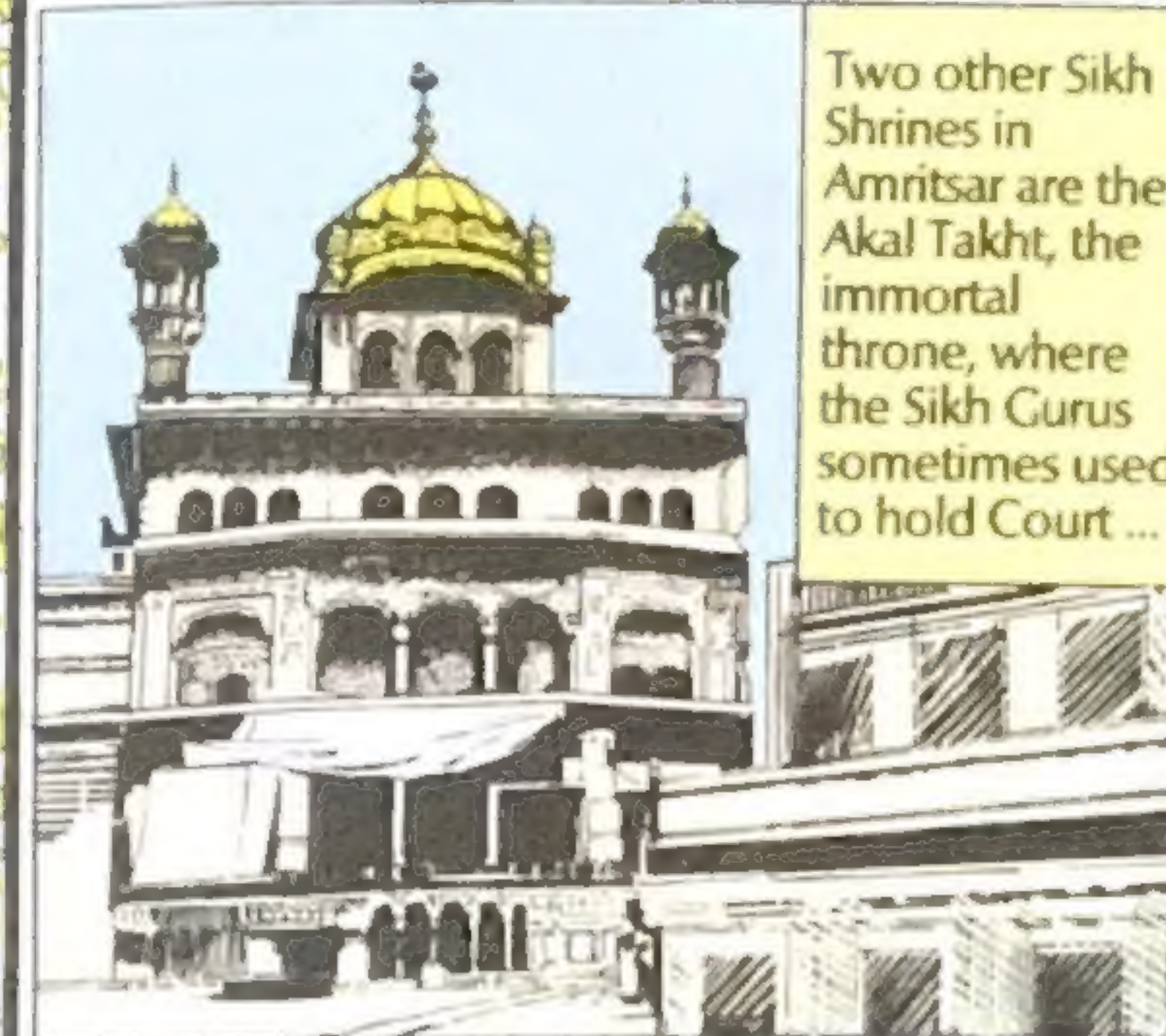
Then in 1803, Maharaja Ranjit Singh gave a donation of five lakhs ...



... to rebuild the temple in marble and copper, overlaid with gold foil.

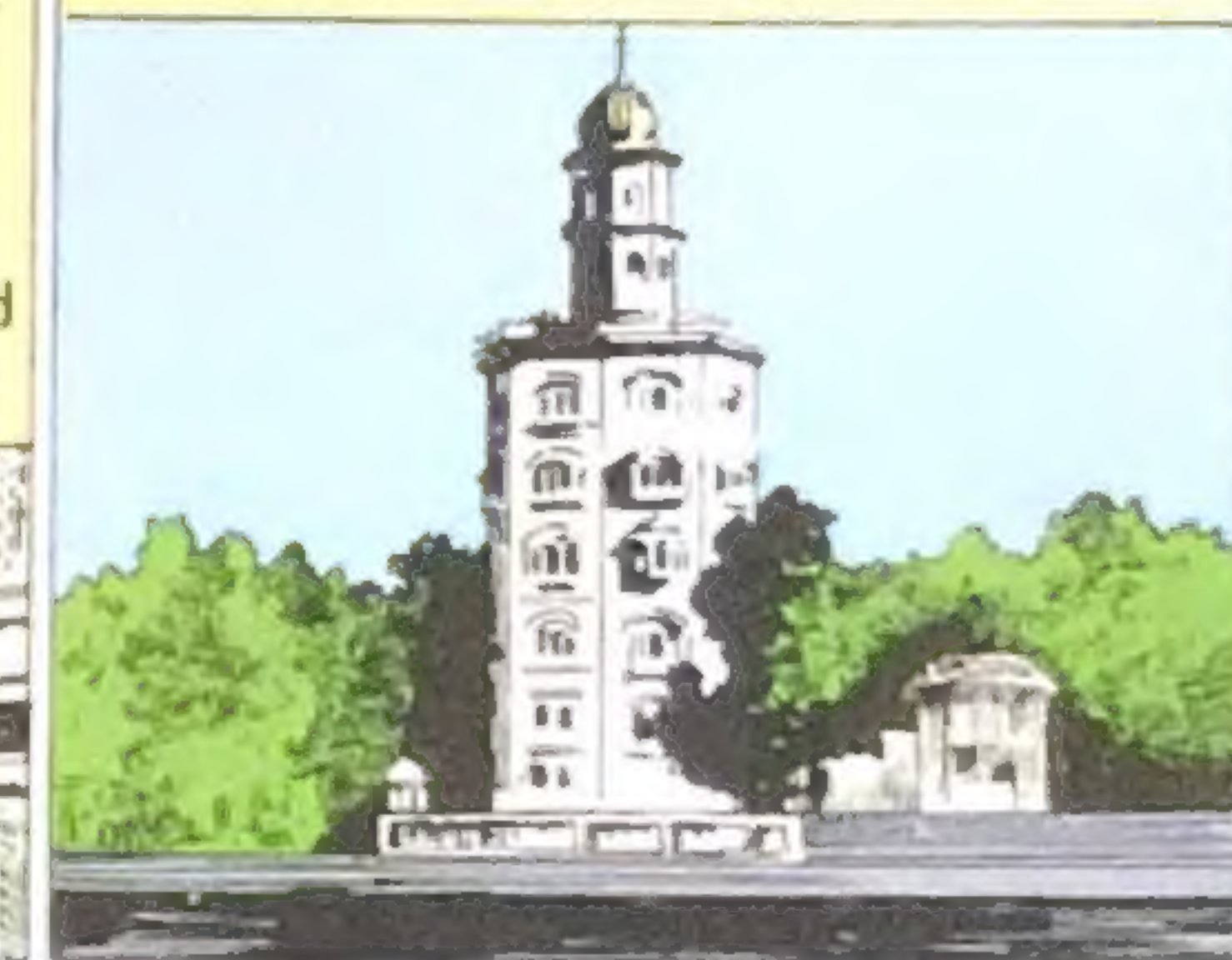


His son, Guru Arjan, completed it, and also had a temple, the Har Mandir, built in the middle of the pool.

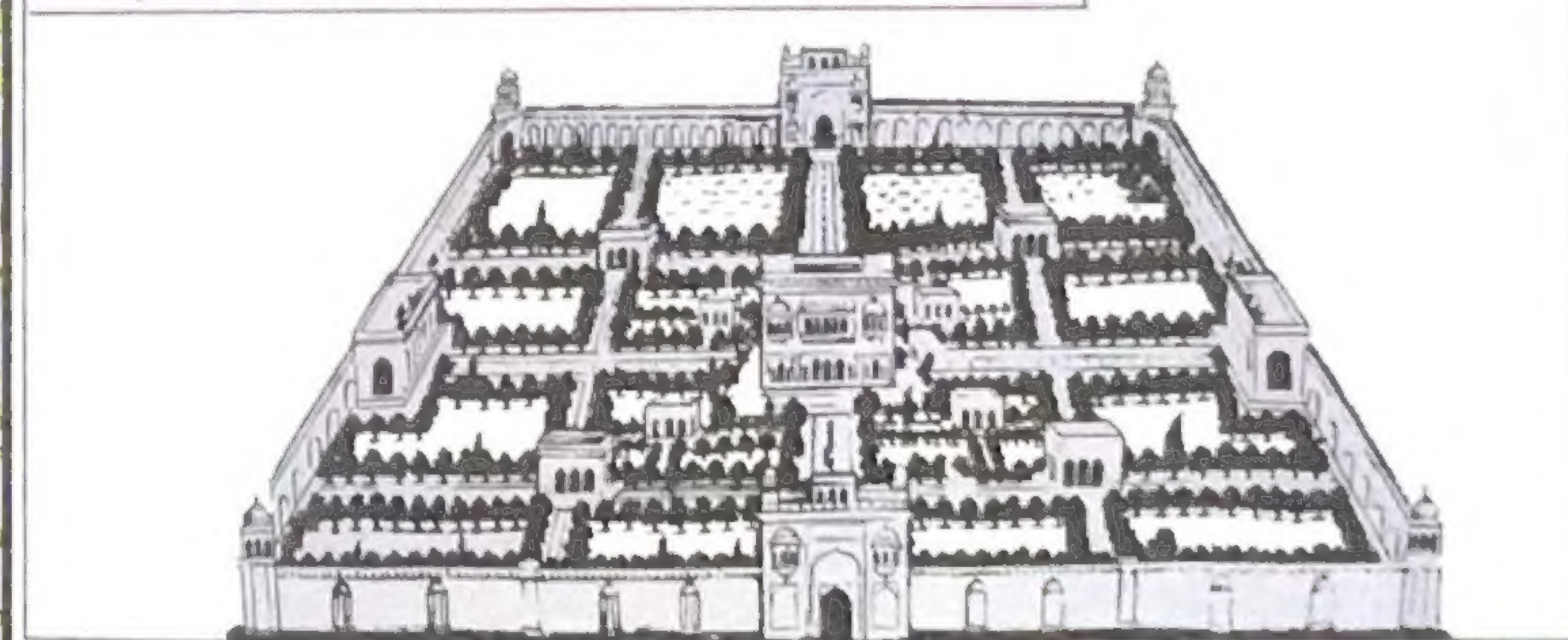


Two other Sikh Shrines in Amritsar are the Akal Takht, the immortal throne, where the Sikh Gurus sometimes used to hold Court ...

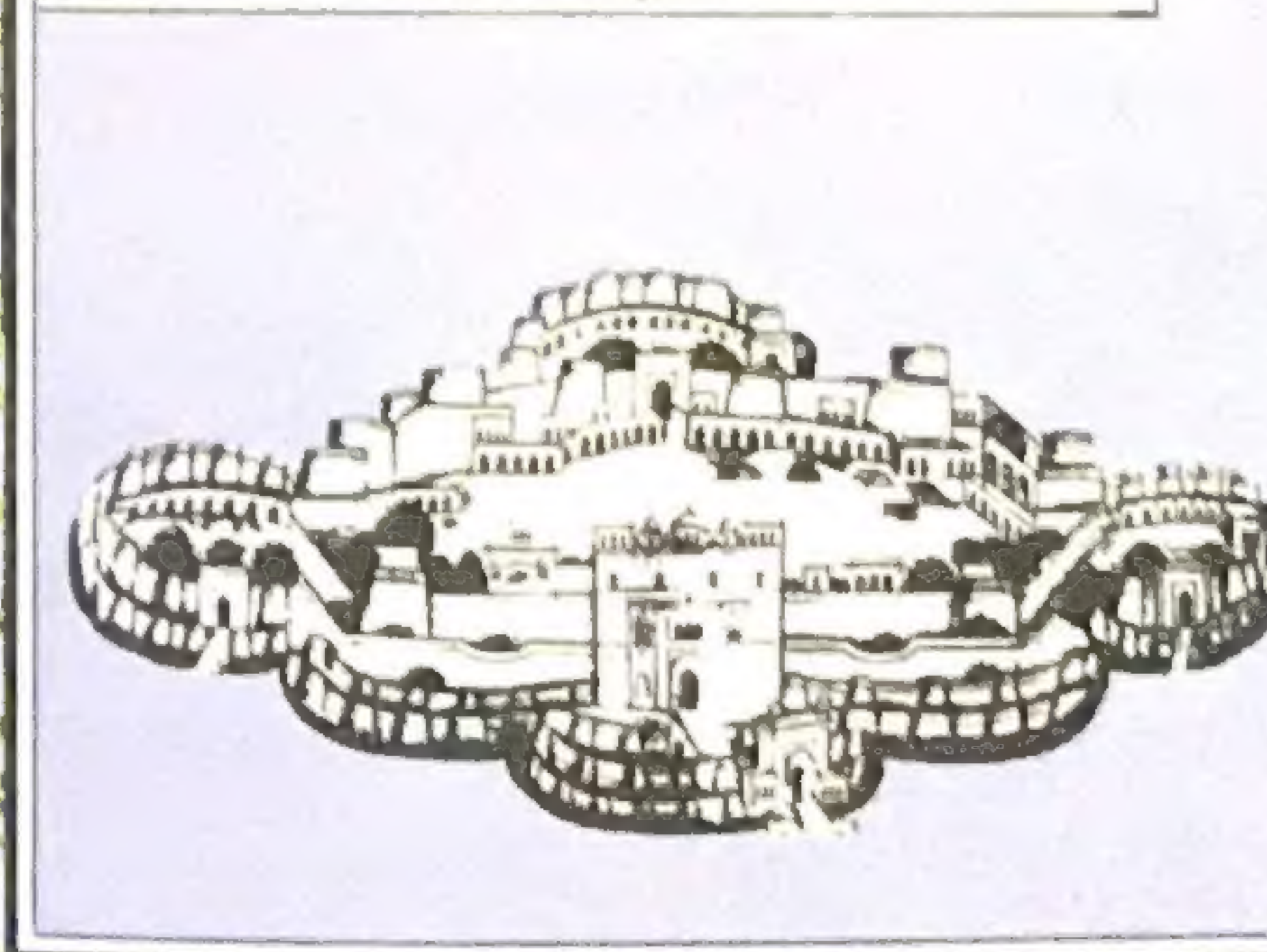
... and the famous tower of Baba Atal which was erected in memory of Atal Rai, son of Har Gobind, the Sixth Guru.



Maharaja Ranjit Singh used to visit Amritsar at regular intervals. For his stay there, he built a small palace in the Rambagh gardens.



He also built a fort, Govindgarh, outside Amritsar.



At Jallianwalla Bagh, not far from Har Mandir, is the memorial to the martyrs of the massacre of April 13, 1919.

